

Foreign Language Policy



Intent

Excellence

At St Thomas', we deliver an ambitious, and enriching foreign language curriculum which enables our pupils to become confident French linguists. Pupils' French pronunciation is at the heart of our studies; we prioritise oral rehearsal and recall before applying this knowledge in our reading and writing. Through the use of language Angels' audio clips, all pupils are exposed to excellent authentic pronunciation during lessons, which also provides staff the confidence and skills to deliver excellent teaching of this language. These audio clips are referred to throughout lessons to improve upon and in some cases correct pronunciation. QR codes directly connects pupils with the audio clips on the school website which can be accessed at home and in school. As a result, we have high aspirations of pupils' pronunciation of French at St Thomas'.

Experiences and Life skills

Our Foreign Languages curriculum enables our pupils to develop practical communication skills which can broaden horizons and open doors to all that life has to offer. Through the rigorous and progressive teaching of French, pupils are prepared for further study of languages in Key Stage 3. Children apply their growing French vocabulary during French Fridays. This provides our pupils the opportunity to use French in their daily routines such as classroom instructions, '1-2-3' in French.

Celebrate Diversity

Through the exploration of a range of languages, and our focus language of French, pupils are exposed to wider cultures, helping them to understand the diversity of the world in which we live. Our curriculum is designed to enable pupils to develop their cultural understanding in addition to language knowledge, particularly within a unit in Year 2 entitled, 'I'm Learning French'. We learn basic greetings in multiple languages in addition to building more in-depth skills in French, allowing our pupils to develop a love for the diversity of language across the world.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



Christian Values

The Bible teaches us 'to love thy neighbour as thyself' (Matthew 22:39). By learning an additional language, we are developing respect for the diversity of the people God created. Being able to communicate effectively with others in other languages gives us the tools to develop friendships and learn to respect other people.

Reading and Vocabulary

Linked to our whole school Intent Statement, we place a strong focus on reading across the French curriculum, with opportunities for children to explore a range of authentic texts from traditional tales to non-fiction texts about the Romans. Children learn to use cognates (words in French which are similar to the English translation) to help them to decode increasingly challenging French texts. This enables our pupils to see reading in French as a puzzle for which they have the tools to solve. Reading French vocabulary within sentences allows our pupils to not only apply their knowledge of taught vocabulary, but also build upon this simultaneously. Furthermore, planned links between subjects such as 'Planets' in Year 5 allow children to reinforce and consolidate the vocabulary across both science and French lessons, strengthening the retrieval process and improving retention.

Knowledge Rich and Academic

Our curriculum builds upon prior knowledge in a rigorous and progressive sequence, both within and between year groups to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum, and to create meaningful links with other subject areas, such as 'World War II' and 'Planets'. This allows our pupils to stretch themselves with their application of French language.

Pupils learn French from Reception, to enable our pupils to become confident with core vocabulary by the time they begin Key Stage 2. We have high aspirations for all our pupils in French, and provide opportunities for our pupils to study French at home through the use of a e-learning platform www.languageangels.com and knowledge organisers with audio clips which are available on the school website.



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Implementation

Expectations

- **Structure of lesson:**

- **Retrieval:**

- Children will take part in a short, independent task (often focused on phonetics) where they will be required to retrieve previously gained knowledge. The children may have acquired this knowledge in a previous lesson, unit of work or even a previous year group. This task is designed to strengthen our pupils' memories of key knowledge, enabling them to permanently remember and make progress across the curriculum.

- **Vocabulary:**

- The teacher will introduce the children to the new language aurally **before** they see the written form. We do this to encourage accurate pronunciation of the French they are learning without any confusion arising from pupils trying to pronounce the French vocabulary phonetically.

- **Audio Clips:**

- Teachers will use the 'Language Angels' slides to expose pupils to authentic French pronunciation, alongside an image. Pupils will rehearse this in chorus several times then on the next click of the mouse the written form of the word will appear on the screen for pupils to aurally rehearse again.

- **Partner Talk:**

- Children will work with a partner to communicate in French at least once in the lesson.

- **Independent Task:**

- The children will work independently on a task where they **apply** knowledge of new vocabulary or phrases (with the support of word banks where appropriate). This can range from matching vocabulary to images, to writing full sentences.

- **Read!**

- Children will read a range of French texts, from Little Red Riding Hood to information texts! Pupils will be exposed to a range of texts, developing the ability to comprehend longer passages of text, within cross curricular contexts such as History.

- **Books** – All lessons are to include a date (in French [without capitalisation] and English) and learning objective. Pupils will complete an independent task to **apply** their new knowledge.
- **Assessment** – Assessment of French should be continuously used to inform teaching. Retrieval tasks should be used to address gaps in pupils' knowledge. Teachers should assess children on the objective after every lesson (a tick against each goal if a child has achieved). If a child has achieved a Step for Depth, teacher should mark with two ticks. At the end of each unit, pupils will complete a Language Angels assessment to aid teacher judgement on whether pupils have met the age related expectations.
- **Knowledge organisers**- Pupils have access to knowledge organisers with audio clips to ensure that pupils continue to practice with authentic French pronunciation, even at home.
- **Vocabulary Poster**- New vocabulary and phrases should be added to the poster after the aural rehearsal stage. These should be referred to in lessons and pupils should use them to aid learning. They should be kept up in the classroom for the duration of the year, and can be taken up to the next classroom for reference.
- **Online Platform**- All pupils will have access to the online platform provided by Language Angels. Each class will have a shared username and password with access to games linked to the class' current unit of work. This can be accessed in school, or out of school. Whilst is not compulsory for all pupils to access this at home, a link to this website should be included on all class webpages, under the sub-page 'Home Learning'.
- **Language Leaders**- A child from each class will be assigned the role as French ambassador for the year. They will lead short whole class activities throughout the year to revise core vocabulary taught in previous year groups to ensure retention.

Impact

By the end of KS1, our pupils will know (through speaking and listening) the following in French:

- numbers to 10
- the primary colours
- the days of the week
- the months of the year
- basic greetings (salutations)
- at least 5 animals

Pupils will also be able to:

- locate France on a map, and name some of its cities
- name some other French speaking countries
- describe some French traditions

By the end of KS2, our pupils will:

- Understand numbers 1-100 and be able to use them in context (e.g. the date, age, prices)
- Use adjectives (e.g. colour or size etc.) and conjunctions (e.g. “after”, “also”, “and”, “later on”, “finally” etc.) to make sentences more descriptive and fluent.
- Understand and apply core areas of grammar, including:
 - nouns (masculine and feminine)
 - articles (definite and indefinite)
 - the negative form
- Be able to read or listen to longer passages of French text and answer more detailed questions (orally or in writing) about the passage they have read.
- Study cross-curricular topics (e.g. habitats, planets or Romans) and use their subject knowledge to allow themselves to be challenged by longer passages of unknown text or vocabulary in French.
- Understand, express and be able to justify opinions orally and in writing (e.g. school subjects they like and don’t like, leisure activities they like, foods they don’t like etc.)
- Use a wealth of French vocabulary within coherent sentences.