



“For I know the plans I have for you” Jeremiah 29:11

MFL (French) Curriculum Purpose and Rationale

As a Church school, the teachings of the bible guide and influence our practice. Being part of the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy trust, we, like the other schools within our Multi-Academy Trust, work towards ensuring that pupils we serve experience, ‘life in all its fullness.’ (John 10:10).

At Nethersole, our Local Academy Board, Leaders and Staff are committed to achieving this through our vision “For I know the plans I have for you” (Jeremiah 29:11). Our curriculum’s purpose is to develop the children’s understanding, personality and gifts bestowed upon them by God in order for them to know they are loved by God, have love for others and let their light shine.

Every aspect of school life, including the curriculum, has been constructed around our school vision and our school values. Our vision is underpinned by the three key tenants: Loved by God; Love for others; Let your light shine. We have constructed a curriculum which prepares the children of Nethersole academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually to be active and successful participants of British and Global society.

Our sequential knowledge curriculum begins in EYFS, so that students can successfully access a broad and balanced curriculum throughout their education at Nethersole Church Primary Academy. This is underpinned by structured phonics, writing and mathematics lessons in EYFS to ensure core procedural knowledge is secured and that transition into KS1 is successful.

During KS1, focus is placed on reading, writing and mathematics. We ensure all students are reading by the age of six so that they can successfully access a broad and balanced curriculum. Through the Mathematics Mastery programme, we ensure core mathematical knowledge is mastered and practised. Music, PE, humanities and science are carefully planned with specialist support to ensure students are making links across and throughout the curriculum.

Throughout KS2, we seek to carefully develop subject knowledge and build clear sequences in our students’ minds, allowing them to begin to think more coherently, critically, and creatively. Working with subject experts, curriculum leaders are equipped to design carefully crafted sequences of learning.

As teachers and leaders of our Learning Community, we ensure that our curriculum and teaching is informed by the latest evidential research from cognitive science about memory, knowledge retention and practice in order to help students remember, and apply, the best of what has been thought and said. We make knowledge stick for all learners so that all children are equipped to let their light shine.



Curriculum Purpose: Why study French (MFL)?

Why do learners at Nethersole Church Primary Academy need to study French (MFL)?

At Nethersole Church Primary Academy we believe learning a modern foreign language is a vital part to ensuring that pupils are prepared for the world around them. We provide our pupils with an international dimension to their learning which enables them to learn about different countries and cultures and empowers them to see the world as responsible global citizens. We have chosen to teach French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL) across Nethersole as this ensures pupils have a good foundation in the subject before moving into the next phase of their education. As some pupils in our school have not had the chance to travel abroad or meet people from a variety of cultures, through studying French, they will develop an understanding of different cultures around the world as well as respect and acceptance of these cultures. It also allows pupils to develop their written, auditory and verbal skills.

French is the second most widely spoken language in the world after English. French is the official language (or one of the official languages) in 29 countries. English, for comparison's sake, is the official language or one of the official languages in 45 countries.

What are the aims for the French (MFL) curriculum?

By the time pupils leave Nethersole they should be able to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audience
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language



- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

The National Curriculum

Aims

The national curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) aims to ensure that all pupils:

Key Stage 2

- Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- Speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

All pupils will be expected to achieve their full potential by encouraging high expectations and excellent standards in their modern foreign language learning - the ultimate aim being that pupils will feel willing and able to continue studying languages beyond key stage 2.

Which values underpin the curriculum content?

Respect

Pupils learn to be respectful when communicating with different people without showing ignorance and arrogance towards other languages and cultures.



Perseverance

Through the curriculum pupils will demonstrate perseverance as they learn, explore and develop a new language.

Community

Pupils learn about wider world studying other cultures, customs and countries

Wisdom

Pupils develop wider knowledge gaining skills to speak in another language.

How are British Values taught from French?

The MFL curriculum actively promotes British Values, by promoting the tolerance of cultural values and traditions of other countries. Through the curriculum pupils are appreciating other countries, especially France as the pupils are learning to speak French, they are also encouraged to reflect on other cultures and ways of life and embrace socio-cultural and economic differences and contexts. This ensures pupils make better connections between countries and societies. This in turn, emphasises the need for tolerance and justice, and through their studies, our pupils come to value the rule of law and democratic systems that European countries and countries further afield enjoy despite the varied customs, festivals and national characteristics that makes every society so unique.

Which links to careers can be made within the French curriculum?

1. Translation
2. Interpreter
3. Editor
4. Tour guide
5. Flight attendant
6. Resort or hotel staff
7. Consul, ambassador or diplomat.
8. French teacher



Curriculum Rationale: Why study MFL (French) in this way?

Why has the specific knowledge been selected?

We offer a relevant, broad and vibrant foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes following the Language Angels scheme. This high-quality language education fosters pupils, curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. It enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It also provides opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Learning a language provides the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.

The scaffolding of language is such that pupils will be able to communicate in French to French speaking citizens.

Why is it taught in the order that it is?

At Nethersole the four key language learning skills; **listening, speaking, reading** and **writing** will be taught and all necessary **grammar** will be covered in an age-appropriate way across KS2. This will enable pupils to use and apply their learning in a variety of contexts, laying down solid foundations for future language learning and also helping the children improve overall attainment in other subject areas. In addition, the children will be taught how to look up and research language they are unsure of and they will have a bank of reference materials to help them with their spoken and written tasks.

We will start with basic nouns and article level and will teach pupils how to formulate short phrases. By the time pupils reach the next stage they will be exposed to much longer texts and will be encouraged to formulate their own, more personalised responses based on a much wider bank of vocabulary, linguistic structures and grammatical knowledge. They will be able to create longer pieces of spoken and written language and are encouraged to use a variety of conjunctions, adverbs, adjectives, opinions and justifications.



How are French (MFL) lessons delivered at Nethersole?

French will be delivered across years 3, 4, 5 and 6 during a weekly session by the teachers who will be following the 'La Jolie Ronde' scheme.

What is the impact?

Pupils will continuously build on their previous knowledge as they progress in their modern foreign language learning journey through the primary phase. Previous language will be recycled, revised, recalled and consolidated whenever possible and appropriate to ensure pupils know and remember more.

Teachers will use the **long-term planning** documents provided to ensure the correct units are being taught to the correct classes at each stage of the scholastic year. **Short-term planning** is also provided in the form of **unit overviews** (covering the learning targets for each 6-week unit) and **individual lesson plans** laying out the learning aims and intentions of each individual lesson within a unit. These planning documents ensure that teachers know what to teach and how to teach it in each lesson, across whole units and across each scholastic term.

Pupils will be aware of their own learning goals and progression as each unit offers a pupils friendly overview so that all pupils can review their own learning at the start and at the end of each unit. They will know and will be able to articulate if they have or have not met their learning objectives and can keep their unit learning intention sheets and unit core vocabulary sheets as a record of what they have learnt from unit to unit and from year to year.



MFL (French) Curriculum Aims (end-points)

What are the aims, end-points, of specific stages of the curriculum?

By the end of Year 6 pupils should be able to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.