

MFL at Old Park

MFL is led by our Curriculum Lead and our MFL support teachers.

Why Do We Teach Modern Foreign Languages

‘Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils’ curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing.’ (National Curriculum 2014)

The aim of our MFL curriculum is:

- To introduce our pupils to another language and culture
- To foster a love for learning a language
- To make our pupils aware that languages differ in their structure
- To ensure we lay the foundation for successful language learning (phonics, grammar and vocabulary)
- To develop pupils’ speaking and listening skills in another language
- To provide opportunities for reading and writing in another language
- To develop positive attitudes towards language learning to ensure a smooth transition to secondary school

At Old Park Primary School, we recognise the influence that Europe has on our lives and as the United Kingdom is becoming an increasingly multicultural society, we have a duty to provide our children with an understanding of other cultures and languages. Learning a language enriches the curriculum, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained contribute to the development of children’s oracy, literacy and to their understanding of their own culture and those of others.

At Old Park, we feel that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the more quickly the language will be acquired. It is our aim to ensure the foundations of language learning (phonics, grammar and vocabulary) are embedded to ensure linguistic progression beginning in Year 3 through to Year 6. We believe that the early acquisition of French will facilitate the learning of other foreign languages at KS3 and later in life. We aim to prepare our children for the KS3 language curriculum to enable them to transfer confidently and successfully.

How Do We Teach MFL?

At Old Park, class teachers or another qualified teacher during PPA teach French across Key Stages 1 and 2. Years 1 and 2 have one hour of planned and sequenced introductory French lessons each term, where children are introduced to the French language through songs, familiar stories and by exploring French culture. Years 3-6 have one hour of progressively planned and sequenced French lessons each term. The school uses the ‘Language Angels’ programme to support the planning, teaching and learning of French across the school. This supports non specialist staff with the correct vocabulary pronunciation and provides clear progression for the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Lessons from Years 3-6 are progressive and build upon skills and knowledge taught in the previous year group. Teaching boards consist of activities that are identified as

expected, advanced and deep and are supplemented with symbol support; thus, allowing all pupils (including EAL and SEND) to access the language lesson and to enable teachers to formatively assess pupils throughout the lesson.

Each one hour lesson contains a variety of techniques to encourage children to have an active engagement with French. These include:

- Reading and writing activities, which are evidenced in exercise books (KS2)
- Grammar structures (which are progressive each year and build upon content taught from the previous year)
- Phonological focus (to develop vocabulary and pronunciation)
- Games (to develop vocabulary through repetition, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills)
- Songs and rhymes (to develop phonetic skills, memory skills and to enhance vocabulary).

Does Our MFL Curriculum Influence Our children?

The curriculum was reduced to three lessons per MFL unit during 20/21. This enabled teachers to utilise gained time to focus on basic skills in Reading, Writing and Maths that had regressed or not. Therefore, there will be some gaps in MFL learning; however, across the year, teachers sought to ensure that the National Curriculum MFL objectives were still covered during the lessons in each of the three units studied by KS2. Those that were in school or accessing our remote learning programme would have covered the learning. Unfortunately, many children and parents during the lockdown and remote learning chose to focus on and complete Maths and English sessions over other wider curriculum subjects.

We measure the impact of our MFL curriculum through:

- Pupil discussions about their French learning
- Monitoring of books
- Reflective discussions with staff
- Retrieval quizzes (KS2) - to embed key knowledge
- Monitoring of assessment tracker
- Learning walks
- Reflection against end of Year 6 expected outcomes