

St Margaret's C.E.V.A. Primary School

Languages Policy March 2024



Vision

At St Margaret's our aim is to learn to read, write and speak French at our level and while doing that to enjoy French and have fun. In Year 6, when Latin is introduced, our aim is for the children to gain some understanding of Latin, which is at the root of many current expressions and English vocabulary, including lots of names, in an interesting and stimulating context of early Roman life in Britain.

Introduction.

At St Margaret's we believe that the learning of languages provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others. We teach a modern foreign language, French, throughout Key Stage 2.

In Year 6 we also teach Latin. We believe children should have the chance to learn an ancient language whilst discovering the patterns, history and grammar that underpins their own and do so in a way that is creative, imaginative and relevant to today's world.

Aims and objectives.

The aims and objectives of learning a language in our school are:

- *To foster an interest in learning other languages;*
- *To introduce the children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;*
- *To develop an appreciation of the diversity of languages;*
- *To add an international dimension to pupils' learning;*
- *To help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;*
- *To develop speaking and listening skills, responding to and communicating in a new language.*
- *To use their knowledge of a foreign language to express themselves in both speech and writing.*
- *To lay the foundations for future study –at secondary level and beyond.*

Curriculum

In line with the primary National Curriculum children at St Margaret's are taught French as a foreign language throughout Key Stage 2. Children in Year 6 study both French and Latin.

Key Stage 2:

All pupils in KS2 up to Year 5 receive one timetabled lesson of French teaching per week for forty five minutes. Year 6 children receive one lesson in French and one lesson in Latin every two weeks. The French curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the National Curriculum programme of Study for KS2 and on a whole school scheme published by Primary Languages Network

Latin in year 6 is based on the Minimus scheme devised by Barbara Bell.

In Key Stage 2, children have the opportunity to:

- *Listen to stories, songs and rhymes for enjoyment and engagement, and as a model for correct pronunciation*
- *Have conversations with each other using simple sentence constructions*
- *Read carefully, and write phrases and sentences, showing an understanding of basic grammar*

Inclusion

We teach a foreign language to all Key Stage 2 children, whatever their ability. A foreign language forms part of the school curriculum to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress, whatever their level, by providing suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. For EAL children, learning another language can boost self esteem and make them proud, as we also acknowledge their own languages and cultures – all have value and are important.

Methodology for French teaching.

1. *Teachers use Primary Languages Network to plan and deliver French lessons. PLN has a French-speaking adult modelling what is taught, so a class teacher does not have to be an expert to have confidence in teaching French. PLN is a whole package so resources are supplied to assist the teacher.*
2. *Lessons may include games, songs, storytelling, role-play and participation to encourage active use and enjoyment of the language.*
3. *Where appropriate and practicable, teachers may use the foreign language during the normal school day e.g. greetings, days, dates, the weather, praise, games in PE.*
4. *Teachers may choose to relate the foreign language to other areas of the curriculum where there is a natural link.*
5. *We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language.*

Methodology for Latin teaching

- *Latin is taught using the “Minimus – Starting out in Latin course”, which introduces the Latin language and the culture of Roman Britain. The course centres on a real family who lived at Vindolanda in 100AD.*
- *Led by Minimus the Mouse children learn basic grammar and Latin vocabulary through stories about a variety of family members.*
- *Minimus gives careful explanation of the grammar points and there are plenty of opportunities for practice.*
- *Children are also introduced to the history of Roman Britain and many myths.*

Assessment

French

Teachers assess the children according to their year on Learning Ladders after each lesson, as appropriate. Teachers assess speaking, listening and writing skills. Progress is recorded in Learning Ladders and reported to parents in end of year report.

Latin

Teachers assess the progress of the children at the end of each term. Progress is reported to parents in end of year report.

Monitoring

The co-ordination of the curriculum is the responsibility of the subject leader who carries out book/folder scrutinies and lesson observations.

Resources

Resources for French are distributed to all Key Stage 2 classrooms. There are also many French stories and other resources available online

Latin resources are kept in Sharks classroom in Year 6.

J Webster March 2024