



French at Essex

Intent

At Essex, we aim to develop the very best linguists by fostering a love of learning about other languages and cultures. The French curriculum forms a backbone to our school ethos. It provides a wealth of opportunity for key stage two pupils to:

- Be confident to communicate in French with good intonation and pronunciation
- Demonstrate fluency in reading and writing French
- Have an awareness of the culture of the countries where French is spoken
- Be independent and use resources for support
- Feel safe and happy to try new things
- Use French skills in different areas of the curriculum

We equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to thrive and succeed in any language learning, through encouraging and inspiring them with quality first teaching. Our French curriculum is cross-curricular and offers an experience which is not only linguistic but which also supports and promotes many other areas of the curriculum, thus broadening pupils' awareness of other cultures, communities and countries.

Implementation

In French, we implement our curriculum through using a variety of teaching approaches and tasks which incorporate the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Wherever possible, learning is linked to the themes pupils are studying in other subject areas.

Our pupils experience a range of new challenges to ensure they develop the skills and resilience to be successful linguists. Lessons are skilfully designed and sequenced to match the full range of pupils' needs and to ensure highly effective continuity and progression in their learning.

Content and skills are clearly defined, ensuring pupils revisit and build on existing knowledge. We teach grammatical structures, language rules and vocabulary, using the correct terminology and making explicit links to English as well as other foreign languages' grammatical structures and vocabulary, whenever possible.

Spoken language sits at the heart of French teaching, as practice, and as layering of knowledge in different contexts. Many cross-curricular links are also planned. This allows pupils to acquire new language, then use and apply it in a range of different scenarios and topics, giving greater opportunity for independent, paired and group work to reinforce the learning.

Impact

Pupils' evaluations at the end of each term show they are engaged and enjoy learning French, and they look forward to learning more things. All groups make expected or exceeding progress, in comparison to national and age-related expectations. Most pupils achieve the learning objectives and make rapid progress - this is seen during formative and summative assessment.

Enrichment

We enrich our curriculum by providing opportunities to access native speakers. We visit France or Belgium in order to use the language and experience the culture. Appropriate authentic materials are sourced to enrich language learning, e.g. poems, songs, stories and audio-visual materials. We celebrate festivals, traditions and customs which are relevant to the countries where French is spoken. Family learning projects and competitions further enhance collaboration and community cohesion.