



## **WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **LANGUAGES POLICY**

#### **1. Aims and objectives**

1.1 The learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. Pupils develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning. They develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between French and English.

1.2 Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

1.3 The aims and objectives of learning French in Whitchurch Primary School are :

- To foster an interest in learning other languages
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- To stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language
- To encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another
- To help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences and similarities in other countries
- To increase their speaking and listening skills
- To lay the foundations for future study through the development of language learning strategies
- To reinforce and expand their knowledge and understanding of their own language

1.4 The children are taught how:

- To listen attentively and demonstrate understanding
- To read carefully and demonstrate understanding
- To ask and answer questions
- To describe people, places, things and actions (orally and written)
- To interpret meaning

- To seek clarification and help
- To speak in sentences
- To use correct pronunciation
- To understand and use basic grammar
- To memorise words and phrases (orally and written)
- To find their own strategies for memorising new vocabulary and phrases
- To explore patterns & sounds (orally and written)
- To use French/English bi-lingual dictionaries
- To appreciate French stories, songs, poems and rhymes
- To work individually, in pairs and in groups
- To communicate in French to a range of audiences
- To look at life in France

## **2. Organisation**

2.1 In Whitchurch Primary School, French is taught to children in Key Stage 2 in a 50 minute lesson each week, as a specialist model.

2.2 KS1 French is currently not taught in Key Stage 1

## **3. Teaching and learning styles**

3.1 The teaching is based on the Wakefield/Jolie Ronde and the Early Start schemes of work for KS2.

3.2 The teacher uses a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement with French, including games, role play, stories and action songs and rhymes. The teacher also uses a variety of strategies to present new vocabulary, as this serves to demonstrate French without the need for translation. Listening, responding and speaking skills are emphasised together with simple reading and writing skills. A multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching is used, i.e. a physical element is introduced into some of the games, rhymes and songs as this serves to reinforce memory.

3.3 The teacher tries to make lessons as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to the learning of French. Children's confidence is built through praise for any contribution they make, however tentative. e.g. Très bien! Super! Excellent! Bravo! Formidable!

## **4. Assessment**

4.1 The teacher assesses children's progress informally during the lessons. Progression is measured through skill levels and not by knowledge of lists of vocabulary. The teacher uses INSIGHT to monitor children's progress.

## **5. Resources**

5.1 The following resources are used by the teacher:

- The Wakefield/Jolie Ronde scheme of work for Years 3 /4 and Years 5 /6 together with IWB resources, sound files and lesson plans
- Early start 1 and 2
- A collection of story and poetry books, and songbooks with CDs
- A set of English-French bi-lingual dictionaries
- ICT - access to online resources such as the BBC Primary French language website

Status of this Policy: Final

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