

Carlton Colville Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

'What we learn with pleasure we never forget'

Aims

In our school we teach a modern foreign language to all children in KS2 as part of the school curriculum. Learning a language enriches the curriculum and provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge. We believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Introducing children to the languages and cultures of others helps create a situation in which children learn to respect the diversity of the society and the world in which we live. We also believe that early exposure to a foreign language leads to faster acquisition of that language. Children are less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life. Consequently children in Key Stage 1 start to learn French through the medium of stories.

Objectives

We want children to develop a curiosity about languages and language learning.

The main teaching objectives comprise three clearly progressive core strands:

- Oracy
- Literacy
- Intercultural Understanding

And two further cross cutting strands

- Knowledge about Language
- Language Learning Strategies

We want children to lay the foundations for future study. The ability to communicate in a language other than English is valued by many employers.

The curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

The curriculum that we follow in Key Stage 2 is based on Rigolo published by Nelson Thornes which fully meets the requirements of The Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages. It was chosen in close consultation with the Suffolk Advisory team and followed liaison and training sessions within our local mini-pyramid of schools to ensure continuity and progression as the children move through the system. Rigolo 1 provides coverage of the Framework Objectives for Years 3 and 4. One unit of Rigolo will be taught each half term throughout Key Stage 2. Long, Medium and Short Term plans are detailed within Rigolo and the short term plans can be customised to add new activities and change the sequence of activities or lessons. Upper KS2 (Year 5 and 6) follow the Early Start 2 programme which builds upon the language learnt in Years 3 and 4, as well as further developing a real-life understanding of France and French culture.

It is not compulsory for KS1 to learn a foreign language, however where possible, language learning and different cultures are included in the curriculum. KS1 have access to a number of French picture story books which are used, including as part of a Guided Reading carousel. The stories used are Handa's Surprise (La Surprise de Handa), Happy Birthday (Joyeux Anniversaire), The Three Bears (Les Trois Ours), Dear Zoo (Cher Zoo), Little Bidd (Petite Tache); and The Very Hungry Caterpillar (La Chenille quifait des Trous). Other books such as First Spanish words are accessible also.

Teaching and learning style

In Key Stage 2 the teaching is based on the guidance material in The Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages. It has been adapted to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

Rigolo combines a variety of new and traditional media. There is a suite of multimedia materials which are particularly suitable for use with an interactive whiteboard, so the whole class can work on the materials at the same time.

A variety of other techniques are also used to encourage the children to engage actively in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play, paired work and songs (particularly action songs). Flashcards are used both with and without text. The children can make their own mini-books and there is some limited use of worksheets. We often use puppets and soft toys to enable the children to feel at ease using the foreign language, and we also invite native speakers into the classroom. The school has invested in a wide range of resources including books and toys that will help not only with language learning but will also help to promote intercultural understanding.

Spanish Club is held where possible during lunchtimes for KS1 and KS2 to further encourage an interest in and knowledge of another language and culture.

Within KS1 French is taught through sharing familiar stories; singing songs; playing games.

Both in lessons and in informal use of the foreign language the emphasis is on having fun!

Organisation

In upper KS2 French is taught for one hour each week. In lower KS2, French is taught for one hour in total each week; sessions are split into two 30 minute slots.

Non-specialist class teachers can effectively deliver the teaching of a modern foreign language using appropriate resources and with appropriate training. Support and training (upskilling) is regularly available to teachers and the 'Virtual Teacher' which is part of the Rigolo programme can be used as the role model when necessary.

MFL and the flexible curriculum

Carlton Colville Primary School teaches most subject areas within a flexible, theme based curriculum. Some aspects of the MFL curriculum are taught in this way, especially those relating to intercultural understanding. When Year 3 is learning about the weather they look at weather symbols over France as well as their own locality etc.

The National Languages Strategy encourages the integration of languages into the curriculum. Children are encouraged to respond to the register with numbers, phrases, days of the week etc. There are displays in French and French songs sung in assemblies. Year 3 can do some of their Maths, adding and subtracting, in French and Year 4 can work on their time problems in French. PE provides opportunities for following instructions. Teachers have learnt how to play playground games in French. A whole-school Day of Languages has been planned.

Much of the Modern Foreign Language needs to be taught and practised on a daily basis however so it is taught mainly as a set of discrete lessons.

As part of a planned SMSC day, children across the school will learn about a number of countries and their ways of life to promote a love of learning in this area. They will learn basic phrases of different foreign languages, as well as discovering more about the Social, Moral and Spiritual aspects of other cultures.

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/languages/framework/crosscurricular/>

Modern foreign languages and inclusion

At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children, whatever their ability, because the school provides a broad and balanced education to all children. A multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching is used and all learning styles are catered for within the curriculum. The Gifted and Most Able are challenged and children with Special Educational needs are fully involved. The teachers use a range of strategies for removing barriers to learning, for example; puppets, paired work, a reliance on oral work. Fundamental issues of identity and self-esteem can be tackled sensitively through foreign language teaching. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the

foreign language, however tentative. We provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress.

Assessment for learning

In Key Stage 2 we assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons, and also by use of the CiLT Languages Portfolio which the children can complete themselves. The school uses the Learning Objectives from the Chris Quigley Essentials programme to evaluate the progress of each child, and to provide information to the High School when the children transfer.

LO 1: To read fluently

LO 2: To write imaginatively

LO 3: To speak confidently

LO 4: To understand the culture of the countries in which the language is spoken

Resources

In KS2 each class has its own set of resources including posters and laminated flashcards. Rigolo is available on all the computers used by Key Stage 2. There is a central store for other resources in the top corridor which includes fiction and non-fiction books, puppets, Rigolo Big Books, play Euros and play food, song books and CDs, Teacher manuals and resources, French artefacts and objects.

In KS1 there are sets of resources such as puppets and flashcards to support the teaching of each story shared.

Monitoring and review

The school monitors teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach. The headteacher also reports to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as for progress in any other subject. The governors' curriculum working party has the responsibility of monitoring the success of our teaching of French.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Approved: Spring 2016

Review Date: Spring 2018