



The Intent, Implementation and Impact of our MFL Curriculum

School Mission Statement



St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School is a Catholic family of faith, following the teaching of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community become caring, independent and resilient individuals who fulfil their potential.
“I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness” John 10:10

Intent

At St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, the intention of our MFL curriculum is to develop an interest in, and a thirst for, learning other languages, fostering the children's love for exploring different languages and cultures. We believe that learning a language provides a valuable educational, social, and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them develop communication skills, including key abilities in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The children's understanding of how language works will be created and extended. Lessons will enable pupils to make substantial progress in one language. The linguistic skills gained will assist and lay the foundations for further language learning. It will provide pupils with the confidence and independence to explore and manipulate the structure of the language. Learning another language gives children a new and broader perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

Implementation

Curriculum:

Children at our school learn French. Our MFL curriculum is designed to develop not only our children's language skills but also their love of learning a language. Our school follows the Primary Languages Network scheme of work (Click2Teach/Video2Teach). It is a live scheme that is continually updated and revised to meet current curriculum standards. It holds at its core the Intent, Implementation, and Impact of MFL while maintaining a 'primary' focus. Alongside the provided planning, the scheme is supported by accompanying videos, PowerPoints, audio files (spoken by native speakers), links to authentic literature, songs, games, cultural references, seasonal events, and cross-curricular links.

The children in KS2 build their knowledge and skills by progressing through the language learning stages from Stage 1 in Year 3 to Stage 4 in Year 6. The scheme of work is progressive, with the foundations laid in Stages 1 and 2, ready for further development and challenge in Stages 3 and 4. In KS1, children experience incidental language learning through a variety of activities each term, which are repeated and extended from Nursery to Year 2, supporting our children in gaining a deeper insight into the French they will encounter as they transition into KS2. In KS2, children are taught directly by class teachers for a minimum of 30 minutes per week and incidentally during our celebration days and events throughout the year.

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Teaching and Learning:

To promote active language learning, a range of teaching methods are implemented to ensure that the children develop their linguistic skills through listening, speaking, reading, and writing to become secondary-ready. Activities may consist of actions, rhymes, stories, songs, drama, grammar focus, video clips, air writing, sentence structure, dictionary work, bookmaking, and many more creative ways to extend, embed, and combine language skills. Children's practical work is recorded and kept in a class file along with photos and evidence of classroom displays. Written evidence for each child is compiled in their writing book, which they take with them throughout their French learning journey from Year 3 to Year 6, demonstrating their clear progression in French writing skills.

In addition to our French lessons, the children explore and celebrate a variety of languages, cultures, and traditions through celebration days and events, such as the European Day of Languages and Bastille Day, as well as within our school community. We are fortunate to have many children and staff within our school who speak various languages alongside English. We view this as an advantage and use the skills of both adults and children to further develop and enhance our curriculum opportunities and broader learning experiences for our pupils. Language and culture learning is vast, and we thrive on celebrating our multicultural school.

Inclusion:

All children, regardless of background or additional needs, have the right to a quality education. Through differentiation and additional support, all children can enjoy learning a language, develop communication skills, discover more about the world and its diversity, and celebrate and appreciate cultural and linguistic differences. These skills can then be linked to and developed in other curriculum areas.

Impact:

Our curriculum is planned to demonstrate progression in both core skills and language learning skills. Assessment for learning occurs during lessons to evaluate and provide immediate feedback for further improvement. Errors are corrected through being 're-framed,' and a growth mindset encourages all to 'have a go' and learn from mistakes. Pupils self-assess each learning objective using PLN's self-assessment cloud documents. There are built-in opportunities to conduct summative assessments (Puzzle It Out) three times during the year in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to track progress. The aim is for a core body of language (words and phrases) to be 'left in the sieve' (as quoted by Dr. Michael Wardle, HMI Lead for Languages) by the end of each stage.

Through the use of Puzzle It Out assessments and the tracking of results using Target Tracker, progress can be monitored, showing the impact of language learning. The outcomes of these assessments allow staff to identify any core skills that still need development and any areas of content that require further reinforcement.

The impact of our MFL curriculum is that children are encouraged to understand the relevance of what they are learning in languages and how it relates to everyday life and travel. In addition, it illustrates how language skills could assist them in another country or when communicating with a French speaker.

Our MFL curriculum will ensure all pupils develop the key language learning skills outlined by the national curriculum, as well as a love for languages and an appreciation of other cultures.

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These skills are as follows:

‘The national curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency, and spontaneity, finding ways to communicate what they wish to express,