

Languages at Catshill First School and Nursery

Aims:

Learning a foreign language widens global opportunities and ensures that children are introduced to other cultures. It builds on and provides further opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of the world. Language teaching provides the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries. The children at Catshill First School and Nursery are introduced to French in Key Stage Two. Our teaching begins the journey to support children to be able to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and, in time, to be able to read information, communications and literature in the original language.

What you will see:

At Catshill First School and Nursery, children are taught about the world and other cultures through the Knowledge and Understanding of the World strand of the Early Years Foundation Stage and through the subject of Geography in Key Stage One. There are also elements of the PSHE curriculum which ensure that the children understand their role as global citizens.

French is introduced as a foreign language in Year Three. Children are taught basic greetings, vocabulary and short phrases. They are introduced to the concept of foreign languages and that different countries have different cultures, customs and traditions. Children are motivated through their curiosity. Lessons are taught in a fun and practical way; language acquisition is often taught through songs and with visual support. Much of the vocabulary is linked to concepts that the children are very familiar with or that relates to the pupils themselves e.g. enabling them to talk about their family, personal information or their preferences. The children enjoy an annual French breakfast which enables them to invite parents into a 'French cafe', use their French to order food and showcase some of their other French learning through song/performance.

Deeper learning is reinforced through opportunities to use French in wider contexts such as when lining up or when answering the register. Display of some of the key vocabulary gives further support. Alongside learning the French language, pupils are taught about the country of France and elements of French geography and culture.

Ensuring this is put into practice:

Children may record some of their learning on paper but they may also create resources, posters and games which can be used as an aide memoire for the new vocabulary. Opportunities are created across the term so that children are able to listen, speak, read and write in French. Skills are developed and tracked by the class teacher. Curriculum coverage has been mapped so that the language acquisition and skill progression is developed over time. French Knowledge Organisers have been created for Year 3 and Year 4 for each term in order to support children to be able to know the essential elements, understand the key information and focus on the required important learning. Knowledge Organisers are an inclusive tool and support pupils both at home and at school.

French at Catshill First School and Nursery is assessed by the class teacher using assessment for learning (afl). Learning is recorded on Educater at least annually. The Skills Progression book is kept by each year group and gives an accurate record of the coverage/skills taught for each year group. The teaching and learning of French is monitored by the Subject leader, using tools such as Educater and the Skills Progression book, alongside Pupil Voice discussions and reviewing children's work.