

French Statement of Practice

Vision

At Wolverham Primary School, we aim to foster a love of languages and an appreciation of different cultures through the teaching of French. We want our pupils to become confident, curious and respectful global citizens who are equipped with the linguistic skills and cultural understanding necessary for life in a diverse and interconnected world. Through the French curriculum, we support our children in developing communication skills, cultural awareness and a sense of identity, encouraging them to appreciate the richness of languages spoken within and beyond our school community.

Intent

Our French curriculum is designed to reflect the school values and to ensure all children develop a positive attitude towards language learning. We intend for pupils to leave Wolverham with a strong foundation in French vocabulary, phonics and grammar, alongside the confidence to speak, listen, read and write in another language. The curriculum provides progressive, engaging and meaningful learning experiences which build on prior knowledge and encourage curiosity about the wider world.

From Early Years through to Key Stage 2, our French curriculum offers carefully sequenced learning, structured around recurring themes and vocabulary to support retention. It allows children to develop both their spoken and written French in a supportive and interactive environment. We aim to embed a love of language learning and develop the cultural knowledge necessary to understand and respect the traditions, customs and lifestyles of French-speaking countries.

Our intent is for pupils to:

- Communicate with increasing confidence and fluency.
- Develop an understanding of French phonics and pronunciation.
- Understand the culture and geography of French-speaking regions.
- Make links between French and English vocabulary and grammar.
- Develop resilience and independence through speaking and writing activities.
- Apply their knowledge across other subjects and contexts.

Curriculum

Our French curriculum begins in Key Stage 2 and is built around the **Primary Languages Network** scheme, ensuring progression across the year groups. It is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all learners. Each year group builds upon prior learning, revisiting key vocabulary and language structures in new contexts to reinforce understanding and confidence.

The curriculum covers the key language learning strands of:

- **Listening and speaking**
- **Reading and writing**
- **Grammar**
- **Phonics**
- **Cultural awareness**

We ensure that language learning is fun, purposeful and interactive, using songs, games, stories, role-play, and digital resources to engage all learners. Opportunities for cultural enrichment are woven throughout the year—for example, learning about French festivals, food, famous landmarks and traditions. We celebrate languages across the school, encouraging pupils who speak additional languages at home to share their experiences and contribute to our multicultural environment.

Cross-curricular links are made wherever possible—for example, French numbers in Maths or French colours in Art—to support language retention and promote wider application of knowledge.

Implementation

Memory Joggers

Each unit begins with a **memory jogger** which outlines:

- Prior knowledge
- Key vocabulary and phonics
- Cultural links
- End-of-unit goals

This acts as a reference point throughout the unit and supports pupils in understanding what they already know and what they are expected to learn. These joggers are placed in the children's books and are revisited regularly to reinforce learning.

French Vocabulary and Phonics

We have a progressive sequence of vocabulary and phonics that are taught systematically across year groups. High-frequency words and sentence structures are introduced and revisited regularly. Phonics and pronunciation are taught explicitly to help pupils develop accurate speech and listening skills.

Retrieval Strategies

To ensure vocabulary and structures are embedded in long-term memory, a range of retrieval practices are used:

- Use of digital games such as Blooket or Quizlet
- Revisiting vocabulary and grammar through songs and chants

- Discussing memory joggers at the start of every lesson
- Referring to previous work in books or floor books

These help pupils make connections across units and year groups, supporting cumulative learning and fluency.

Classroom Practice

French is taught in weekly lessons. Lessons follow a clear structure:

1. Review of previous knowledge using memory joggers and flashbacks through the learning scheme of work.
2. Introduction of new language via stories, songs, or digital media.
3. Practice through speaking and listening activities.
4. Application through reading, writing and speaking tasks.

Lessons are interactive and make use of visual prompts, gestures and repetition to support all learners. Pupils are encouraged to speak aloud and build confidence through paired and group work.

Impact

At Wolverham, the impact of our French curriculum is that pupils:

- Have a growing understanding and appreciation of the French language.
- Can communicate in French with increasing confidence and independence.
- Understand the value of learning another language and the cultural insights it brings.
- Are curious and respectful of other ways of life.
- Have developed a strong foundation that prepares them for further language learning at secondary school.

Assessment of Learning

Teachers assess pupil progress continuously through:

- Retrieval activities and questioning
- Observation of spoken language during tasks
- Review of written work in books and pupil response to memory joggers
- End-of-unit performance tasks such as mini conversations or writing tasks

Teachers provide live feedback during lessons and adapt teaching based on identified needs and misconceptions. In Year 6, pupils also undertake a more reflective task where they write or present about their learning journey in French.

Marking and Feedback

Work in French is marked in line with school policy, with a focus on language accuracy and effort. Pupils receive live feedback and are encouraged to correct and improve their language use. High expectations for handwriting, spelling and presentation apply to French as in all other subjects.