



French policy 2024-2025

Updated October 2024

1. National Curriculum Summary

The National Curriculum requires schools to teach a foreign language in Key Stage Two, although teaching may be of any modern or ancient foreign language. To allow pupils to make substantial progress in one language, Abbey Mead have chosen to focus on the teaching of French across Years 3 to 6.

The National Curriculum aims are that, by the end of Key Stage Two, children can:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied

2. Our Intent at Abbey

The teaching of a Modern Foreign Language at Abbey is fundamental to instilling in our children a shared love and appreciation of language. 98% of our children speak English as an Additional Language and have varying fluency in home languages. Following disruptions to our practice resultant of COVID-19 and a trial of the teaching of Mandarin in 2019, we relaunched the teaching of French across our junior classes in 2021-22. This academic year, we continue to build on our successes with our rolling curriculum. Our ambition is for all children to become competent in conversational and written French by the time they leave Abbey Mead but understand the importance of building the foundations of the language.

Abbey Mead have chosen to follow the Primary Languages Network scheme. We are currently using the Stage 1 through to Stage 3 units and, by next year, each year group will follow the appropriate stage of learning. We will have in place a progressive programme that ensures children are covering the skills required by the National Curriculum whilst offering the freedom to stretch pupils readily. Each year, children will be able to build on skills and vocabulary learnt in previous years, providing them with a foundation that will equip them for further language studies.

Lessons will deepen children's curiosity and their understanding of the world, expanding their horizons to other countries, cultures, and people. This is especially important for our children at Abbey as many children experience a narrow world view outside of school. Lessons will also provide opportunities to interact and communicate with others both in speech and in writing.

Initially, children will acquire basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing their speaking and listening skills. These will be embedded and further developed in future years in Upper KS2, alongside reading and writing, gradually progressing onto more complex language concepts and greater learner autonomy.

Implementation

2.1. Planning

In 2024-25, Year 3 will use the Stage 1 scheme of work, Year 4 will follow Stage 2, Year 5 will follow Stage 3 whilst Year 6 will progress onto Stage 4, ending our rolling programme. Lessons are sequenced so that prior learning is considered and opportunities for revision of language and grammar are built in. The introduction and revision of key vocabulary and grammatical structures is built into each lesson

Lesson resources include video files to support staff who are less confident with French pronunciation.

Stage 1 units:

- Getting started
- Calendar and celebrations
- Animals I like and don't like
- Carnival Time
- Fruits and vegetables
- Going on a picnic

Stage 2 units:

- Welcome to school, super learners
- My local area, your local area
- Family tree and faces
- Face and body parts
- Feeling unwell, jungle animals
- The weather

Stage 3 units

- Talking about us
- Time in the city
- Healthy eating and going to the market
- Clothes, colours and fancy dress
- Out of this world
- Going to the seaside.

Stage 4 units

- This is me
- Homes and houses
- Playing and enjoying sports

- Funfair and favourites

2.2. Delivery

French is taught in Years 3-6, for at least 30 minutes per week (or equivalent). Lessons include a range of activities, so children are reading, listening to, speaking, and writing new words. Songs and games are used to reinforce new vocabulary and encourage an active engagement in French learning.

2.3. Home games

Primary languages network (the scheme that we follow) provide games for the children to play to practise their learning each week. These are provided for the children to complete at home. The aim of this is two-fold; to help children retrieve new learning and embed it in long-term memory and also to raise the profile of French teaching within the school and wider community.

2.4. Launch Day

To encourage a love of learning for the language, children in Year 3 start their French journey with a launch day. They have the chance to try some French foods and learn more about France, through a range of practical activities.

3. Resources

There are many resources available on the Internet to support the teaching of French. Parents may wish to look at the following websites:

Stories - <https://www.thefablecottage.com/french>

Games - <https://www.french-games.net/frenchgames>

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty>

Links to French cartoons - <https://bilingualkidspot.com/2019/07/01/french-cartoons-for-kids/>

Colours song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZR66TjirDc>

Numbers song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsc3qLMaCu8>