



MFL Intent Statement 2025/2026

What is MFL?

A modern foreign language refers to a language currently spoken around the world. A language is a system of communication, which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols used by the people of a particular country or region for talking or writing.

Intent

At John Wheeldon Primary Academy we deliver a French curriculum to our key stage 2 children and expose our key stage 1 children to some elements of French e.g counting, answering the register, French songs. The intention of our French curriculum is that children develop an interest in learning languages in a way that is enjoyable and stimulating. We develop children's verbal confidence through planned opportunities for feedback, paired and group talk. We strive to build on children's natural curiosity about language and help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries. We aim to open doors of communication by broadening opportunities to interact and build relationships globally. We strive to embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to enable children to use and apply their French learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning.

Implementation

Our MFL curriculum is designed to progressively develop children's skills in languages, through regular taught lessons. Children progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary organised around topics. Children are encouraged and supported to develop their speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games. As confidence and skill grows, children record their work through pictures, captions and sentences.

We use the 'Language Angels' Scheme of Work to teach French in key stage 2. Learning is sequenced to develop knowledge of grammatical structures and build a vocabulary base, which pupils can use to construct sentences to communicate with others. Pupils learn to pronounce sounds accurately and blend them to say words in French. They are introduced to grammatical features such as the masculine and feminine forms, pronouns and verbs. They learn set phrases used commonly in conversation. Vocabulary is selected to enable pupils to have conversations about familiar topics and about those which are likely to interest them. Vocabulary topics are repeated throughout the curriculum to secure the target language through spaced learning and repetition. Over time, pupils learn to combine vocabulary to speak and write in more complex sentences. Throughout the curriculum, pupils have the

opportunity to speak, listen, read and write in French. We build confidence with children's verbal responses so that they can ask and respond to simple conversational questions in French. Through building up a bank of topic-based vocabulary children can then apply this to their knowledge of basic conversation. These key words will be revisited each year so that knowledge can be layered each year.

Our curriculum exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum through the inclusion of learning about elements of French culture and making it relevant to their own life. They learn vocabulary and information about significant aspects of the French heritage such as Bastille Day. In cookery sessions, children cook French recipes and have a display of ingredients using French vocabulary. We also celebrate the European Day of Languages each September.

Impact

Through our French curriculum our children will gain opportunities they may otherwise not have. If they were to continue their language studies, there may be opportunities for further study and employment. Our children develop the ability to connect with others, as they are able to communicate with a wider range of people. They will have an increased understanding of other cultures as they develop appreciation of the art, traditions and society of French culture. On leaving our school children will be able to engage in a simple oral conversation as well as being able to read and write simple passages in French. They will be open and able to explore their interest in different cultures as well as being able to communicate with a wider range of people.

We are PROUD of all we do!

How to Help at Home

Here are some suggestions for ways you can help your child:

1. Take your child to a museum

France has produced some of the most talented artists, such as Monet and Renoir. Check your local museum's schedule to see when it is featuring a French-inspired exhibition and bring your child along. The admission for children is typically free.

2. Celebrate French holidays

Celebrating important French holidays, such as Bastille Day, will teach your child about French history. Celebrate by making some fun crafts or taking part in holiday traditions. Similar to the Fourth of July, the French display fireworks.

3. Cook a French meal

Familiarize your child with French cuisine by having him or her help you whip up a traditional French meal. Your child can channel their inner Julia Child with traditional French dishes, such as quiche and crème brûlée.

4. Watch a French movie

Fire up Netflix and host a French movie night with your family. Here are some kid-friendly French movies you and your child can enjoy: "A Monster in Paris," "The Red Ballon," and "Tintin and the Lake of Sharks."

5. Listen to French music

Do you have a Pandora or Spotify account? Download some French songs to listen to while at home or on the road. Listening to French music will help familiarize your child with French accents and pronunciations.

6. Puzzles

You can download and print dozens of free French crosswords and word searches for your child. He or she will have fun playing, while simultaneously learning French vocabulary and simple sentences. Keep a stack in the car for long road trips.

7. Memory game

Create some French flashcards and place them face down on a table. Your child will flip over two cards. If the pictures match, your child will flip over two more cards. The point of the game is to match all of the cards from memory.

8. Colouring books

Purchase a French colouring book for these colouring books will spark your child's creativity, while helping him or her learn various vocabulary words and themes.

9. Read French books

There are a ton of beginner French books. *Le Petit Prince* is one of the most well-known French children's books. You can find the book in almost any book shop or online.

10. Hangman

This French activity is played exactly like the original Hangman version, except you are using French vocabulary words and phrases instead of English.