



FRENCH CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

OUR SCHOOL VISION

“Striving for excellence together in a caring Christian community.”

RESPECT COMPASSION COURAGE

As a Church school, we believe that people grow in mind, body and spirit. Christian values are the foundation of our teaching and our ethos as we strive together for excellence for all. We aim for each member of our school community to fully engage in the great adventure that is Primary education.

Working together, we aim for all of our school community to become:

- successful learners who enjoy learning and exploration, make progress and achieve;
- confident, well-rounded individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives; and
- responsible citizens with strong moral and social values who make a positive contribution to society.

“I came to give life—life in all its fullness.” John 10:10

LIVING OUR VISION THROUGH FRENCH

Our French curriculum helps children take their first confident steps into a world of languages and cultures, working together in pairs and small groups to practise speaking, listening and understanding. Through songs, games and interactive activities, children build confidence, curiosity and cooperation while learning to communicate in another language. Learning French supports respect for other cultures, prepares children for travel and international communication, and gives them practical skills they can use now and in the future.

OUR FRENCH CURRICULUM

French is taught across **Key Stage 2** and is supported by the **Language Angels** scheme. This program provides a clear, systematic progression of skills, focusing on phonics, vocabulary, and grammar to build communicative competence.

YEAR GROUP BREAKDOWN

- **Year 3: First Steps and Familiar Topics** Children begin their journey with units like *I Am Learning...*, *Instruments / Animals*, and *Fruits / Vegetables / Ice-Creams*. They learn to listen to short stories and nursery rhymes while recognizing familiar words and phrases.
- **Year 4: Expanding Personal Language** Pupils focus on *Presenting Myself, My Family*, and *My Home / In the Classroom*. They learn to ask and answer questions with increased confidence and accuracy, including incorporating negative replies.
- **Year 5: Lived Experience and Transactions** Children study units such as *Do you have a pet?*, *The Date, Clothes*, and *At The Tea Room / Café / Restaurant*. They learn to write full paragraphs using connectives and explore full verb conjugation for high-frequency verbs.



- **Year 6: Complexity and Global Contexts** The curriculum concludes with *At School, The Weekend*, and *Me in the World / Vikings*. Pupils engage in "gist listening" to authentic materials and can hold short conversations where they respond with opinions and justifications.
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PROGRESSION

Our curriculum ensures children develop across five key pillars of language learning:

- **Listening:** Moving from recognizing simple words in nursery rhymes to "gist listening" to longer, authentic foreign language material by using decoding skills.
 - **Speaking:** Progressing from simple words to engaging in spontaneous conversations on familiar topics with opinions and justifications.
 - **Reading:** Children move from reading familiar phrases to decoding unknown language using bilingual dictionaries and an awareness of French phonics, including accents and silent letters.
 - **Writing:** Progressing from using a model to write simple phrases to writing detailed paragraphs that incorporate conjugated verbs, adjectival agreement, and connectives.
 - **Grammar:** Building a solid understanding of noun gender, articles (definite, indefinite, and partitive), and full verb conjugation for both regular and irregular verbs.
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HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT

- **Listen Together:** Listen to French songs or nursery rhymes online to help your child become familiar with the sounds of the language.
 - **Ask Questions:** Encourage your child to teach you how to "ask and answer" simple questions about topics they are studying, such as their family or pets.
 - **Spot Cognates:** While looking at French text (perhaps on food packaging), see if you can spot "cognates"—words that look and mean the same in both English and French.
 - **Celebrate Curiosity:** Praise your child for having the **courage** to try out new sounds and for showing **respect** for the different cultures and traditions they encounter in their lessons.
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GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

- **Phonics:** The sounds made by particular letters or letter strings (phonemes).
- **Cognate:** A word that looks and sounds very similar in two different languages (e.g., 'le piano' in French and 'the piano' in English).
- **Noun Gender:** The concept in French that all nouns are either masculine or feminine.
- **Article:** Words like "the," "a," or "some" (e.g., *le, la, un, une, des*).



- **Adjectival Agreement:** The rule where the ending of an adjective must change to match the gender and number of the noun it describes.
- **Verb Conjugation:** Changing a verb to show who is doing the action (e.g., "I go," "he goes").
- **Connectives/Conjunctions:** Words used to link phrases and sentences together (e.g., "and," "but," "because").
- **Gist Listening:** Listening to a longer passage to understand the general meaning rather than every single word.