MFL: French

Intent, Implementation, and Impact

Intent

The main focus of MFL is to give children at Tollesbury School a well-rounded knowledge of the basics of our chosen language: French. Learning a foreign language is a necessary part of a multi-cultural society and provides an opening to other cultures.

Our intention is that our lessons lay the foundation for further foreign language at Key Stage 3, preparing children if they wish to study and work in other countries. Our children understand and communicate ideas, facts, opinion, and feelings in speech and writing. This contributes to fostering children's curiosity and deepening their understanding of the world and other cultures.

Implementation

At Tollesbury School, the children follow 'Twinkl' French Scheme of Work, which is our main teaching resource. This is supplemented by a range of resources which are updated and regularly reviewed by the MFL Subject Leader. The curriculum is designed to develop children's knowledge and understanding of our chosen foreign language from the start of Year 3 to the end of Year 6.

The curriculum provides opportunities for children to be creative, such as using role play, acting, songs, games and designing posters. Pupils are taught to have a healthy self-esteem and build resilience, and independence in oral work, both in English and French, with opportunities for group work, presentations to the class and music. This creates a positive, safe atmosphere for children to always 'have a go', building confidence and praising any contribution from our children, however tentative.

At the start of each new topic, key vocabulary is introduced, together with the grammar rules and phonics, which gives children the opportunity to listen, speak, write, and read the words. This vocabulary is revisited regularly to develop language skills. There is a clear progression of skills which involve both new learning and building on previous teaching, building vocabulary and language.

Children are taught through clear modelling. They move through the different stages of their learning at their own pace, ensuring there is support and challenge within lessons.

Children who have shown their understanding at a deeper level within the unit have opportunities to apply these skills in a greater depth activity.

Impact

Our MFL curriculum ensures all pupils develop key language skills, are confident to engage in conversations with an increasing fluency and spontaneity and have an awareness of the vocabulary and language required in a variety of situations.

Children are also able to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources. Our curriculum ensures children can write at varying lengths for different purposes, using the grammatical structures they have learnt.

They have an understanding of simple French language which will form the basis of future work in Key Stage 3 as well as a love of languages and learning about other cultures.

Here at Tollesbury School, we measure the impact through the following methods:

- observing children speaking and listening in French
- marking of written work
- assessment for learning and assessment of children against the National Curriculum
- triangulated monitoring (books, data, pupil voice) throughout the year
- staff meetings giving an opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to measure the progress between year groups and highlight areas for development.
- climate walks