

French at Killigrew Primary and Nursery School



At Killigrew, we teach the National Curriculum's Programme of Study for Languages through the teaching of French.

Our teaching builds progressively throughout Key Stage Two, with activities building on previous learning and ensuring good progression. By using aspects of the French Rising Stars resources, we can also differentiate flexibly dependent on the language ability of the class. This is important to us as some of our pupils already have French as a second language, so we need to make sure that they are challenged within our French curriculum. We also have some children who need extra support with their English learning, so it was crucial that we make links between the languages, at a starting point that they can access, without creating confusion.

Our French resources contain audio scripts for all the language taught, so that we know that both teachers and pupils are supported to accurately pronounce French words and phrases. This is important as some teachers did not study French as a second language, and it is important that the children hear French words and phrases pronounced correctly.

More recently, we have mapped a programme of French phonics from the spring term in Year 3 up to Year 6. The phonics teaching is matched with the context of each French unit, and we use additional resources to support our teachers with this content. We think carefully about when some children begin to access the French phonics learning, only starting this process when they have secured a strong and secure understanding of English phonemes.

We supplement our classroom teaching with a term of subject specialist teaching in Year 6, led by a teacher from one of our local secondary schools. This supports our pupils with the transition to a Key Stage Three French curriculum. In Key Stage One, we offer a French languages club to provide a taster for our younger children.

We teach French across four stages, with six teaching units in each stage. We have divided the units to match the length of our half terms, bearing in mind there is also progression between units. We make the curriculum specific to our school by carefully selecting the order of teaching within the year and the emphasis placed on the topics of learning.

French is taught weekly for thirty minutes and the children steadily progress to the point where they can create a written record of their learning. Within the phonics teaching, children are supported to read a short French text, which increases in difficulty as the pupils learn additional phonemes.

Each unit starts with a short animation designed to familiarise children with the language for each unit. The animations can be paused at any point, allowing the teacher to develop and discuss key language features. The children use flashcards to revise the vocabulary introduced in each unit. Further consolidation is provided using interactive practice activities like quizzes, sequencing activities and word writing practise.

We also use song and rhyme to develop children's understanding of the patterns and sounds of language: we know that singing along to a classic French song or rhyme helps to immerse the children in the language and exposes them to French culture.

We measure the impact of our French teaching primarily through pupil and teacher voice and lesson observations. We also use a summative assessment test at the end of each unit that provides a question bank linked to the pupils' learning. We use this information to decide what we need to review and repeat before moving onto the next unit of work.