

# Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School's Modern Foreign Languages Policy

Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School  
Hawker Hill  
Mitcheldean  
Gloucestershire  
GL17 0BS

## Our Vision:

To ensure that every child receives the highest quality education that is engaging, enriching and inclusive, in an environment that works hard to develop, support and care for all its members, with people that foster mutual respect and encouragement in accordance with Christian Values.

## Subject Leader: Mrs Katie Tillings

At Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop their ability to communicate, including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others. The natural links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enrich the overall teaching and learning experience.

## Objectives

The objectives of learning a modern foreign language in our school are:-

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is challenging, enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.

## Organisation

We teach a foreign language to children in all year groups for ½ hour a week. The main language taught is French, however children in Year 6 have the opportunity to learn German. The management of the subject is overseen by the subject coordinator.

## Curriculum

The curriculum that we follow has regard to guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing

See Appendix 1 for the Curriculum Overview and progression through each year group.

### ***Speaking and listening***

The children will learn to

- listen carefully and recognise sounds and combinations of sounds which are similar to, or different from, those of English;
- understand and respond with increasing competence, accuracy and confidence in a range of situations;
- join in songs, rhymes, raps and stories which enable them to practise the sounds of the language in an enjoyable and non-threatening way;
- take part in conversations at an appropriate level, reacting to instructions and questions and expressing opinions and feelings;
- memorise and recite short texts, and prepare and give a talk on a familiar subject confidently and with regard to the audience.

### ***Reading and writing (the main focus is on speaking and listening)***

The children will learn to

- remember grapheme-phoneme correspondences and vocabulary directly taught and reinforced through word games and similar activities;
- read stories and rhymes for enjoyment and to gain awareness of the structure of the written language;
- read, copy and write independently familiar words and simple phrases in context eg classroom items, display labels, weather chart, date;
- write sentences and short texts independently and from memory.

### ***Intercultural understanding***

The children will learn to

- describe the life of children in the countries where the language is spoken;
- identify similarities and differences in everyday life, social conventions, traditional stories and celebrations;
- recognise how symbols, products and objects can represent the culture of a country, and how aspects of the culture of different countries become incorporated in the daily life of others;
- recognise and mistrust stereotypes, and understand and respect cultural diversity.

### **Teaching and learning styles**

Teachers use a variety of techniques to encourage children to have an active engagement with primary languages. A mixture of approaches and a range of stimulating materials enable children to develop a positive attitude to language learning in a relaxed atmosphere. These include:

- Interactive games, role-play, action rhymes and songs and the use of puppets, soft toys and real objects.
- Using physical gestures to support the presentation of new vocabulary, as this serves to demonstrate language without the need for translation.
- Use a kinaesthetic, multi-sensory approach to help children to internalise the language more easily.
- Activities where the language is used in an enjoyable way, for a real purpose.
- Building up confidence through praise for any contribution made.

### **Inclusion**

Primary Languages teaching at Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School is fully inclusive. No child is excluded by reason of a learning difficulty, or because they have English as an additional language. Language learning activities are planned in such a way as to encourage the full and active participation of all pupils. Work is differentiated as appropriate to the needs of individual children. Pairs and groups for collaborative work may be made up in different ways, depending on the task.

### **Staff development**

Teachers and other staff are given opportunities and encouragement to develop their own language and language teaching skills, through in-school support from the coordinator, network workshops and local authority training. There are also opportunities to meet and work alongside native speakers. The subject leader for Modern Foreign Languages identifies school needs and circulates professional development opportunities.

***Monitoring progress and assessing attainment***

Opportunities to monitor the children's progress in Modern Foreign Languages are built into our programmes of study. Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. Assessments are based on observation of children working on different oral activities and (where appropriate) written product. I pads are used in school to record and monitor progress in speaking and listening.

**Enrichment**

Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School offers pupils the opportunity to experience a taste of French life, language and culture during either a school based theme day or through a weekly French club.

**Links outside school**

We encourage children to share their experiences of visiting or living in other countries. We aim to make use of ICT to access approved sites on the internet or apps on the Ipad in order to find out about life in other countries.

Policy review: September 2016- reviewed and appendix for assessment added, October 2016.

**Appendix 1.**

Assessment has been introduced to languages across school, with each child having a 'My progress in Languages' booklet. The booklet has speaking, reading, writing and multicultural targets in for the children to aim towards as they move through the school. It is now important to look at how these can be integrated onto Insight, the school assessment software, to ensure formative assessment of languages across the school. Teaching of French across school has also changed as we are now following a new scheme called Euro Stars.