



French

“At Ellington Primary School, French deepens our understanding of the world. It allows us to express our ideas and thoughts in another language.”

French Overview

At Ellington Primary School, we understand the importance of studying a modern foreign language for our pupils to enhance their literacy skills, confidence and cultural understanding. Our aim is to embed a love of language learning within our curriculum in line with the statutory requirement to give every Key Stage 2 pupil the opportunity to access and learn a new language. We have chosen to study French at Ellington Primary as it has the second highest number of speakers internationally, behind English.

We aim to ensure that children:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources;
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation;
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt;
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

Please find the National Curriculum Languages document here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239042/PRIMARY_national_curriculum - Languages.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239042/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Languages.pdf)

Intent

At Ellington Primary School, our French curriculum intends to inspire all pupils to develop a genuine interest and positive curiosity about foreign languages, finding learning a language enjoyable and stimulating. Learning a second language will offer pupils the opportunity to explore relationships between language and identity, develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and the world around them with better awareness of self, others and cultural differences. Our intent is to achieve this by offering a broad, vibrant and ambitious curriculum that will encourage high expectations and excellent standards in both the learning and teaching of foreign language learning.

The importance of an outstanding modern foreign language provision is embodied in our curriculum drivers.

Independent Thinking

Learning a second language can be overwhelming to some, as pupils are learning to take the risk of making mistakes in attempting to learn another language. At Ellington Primary, we want to create a culture where these mistakes are turned into learning moments and inspire children to become successful learners with a can-do attitude. This type of learning encourages children to use their working memory and recall skills. Throughout our French curriculum, we hope that children can recognise similarities in the learning of English and French and use these similarities in their independent thinking to build on their prior learning of languages. This will help our pupils to become confident and independent language learners.

Wider World

The study of a modern language requires learning about the culture(s) in which that language is dominant. By learning French, pupils at Ellington Primary School will not only learn about the French language but also the communities around the world in which French is spoken. Given that French has 280 million speakers worldwide, by teaching our pupils French, we are opening doors to the world beyond Ellington allowing them to communicate effectively with a vast number of the worldwide population. Learning a second language will also help children recognise how difficult it can be to learn a language which in turn will help create a sense of empathy towards people in our local community who are learning English as their second language.

Aspirations

Learning French should provide children with a challenging experience that is still highly enjoyable and satisfying. The study of a language involves a range of different skills that the children will practise over the course of our curriculum including observational and study skills, along with committing to memory useful material for subsequent recall. These skills are essential for allowing children to achieve their highest aspirations as well as being essential as pupils continue their educational journey beyond Ellington Primary School.

Implementation

At Ellington Primary School we use the Language Angels scheme of work and resources to ensure we offer a broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will excite our pupils with a variety of topics and themes. All pupils will be encouraged and expected to achieve their full potential by setting high expectations and standards in their French language learning. We ultimately aim to inspire and instil a confidence in our children to continue their foreign language learning beyond their time with us as their educational journey continues.

What will I see in a French lesson at Ellington Primary School?

Knowledge check: An opportunity at the beginning of the lesson to revisit prior learning to support with the recall and retention of key knowledge as well as addressing misconceptions. This will either be with an explicit task in books or a verbal task where appropriate. Children are encouraged to retrieve knowledge and understanding from previous year group work (where applicable) as well as work from a previous lesson, or a previous half term.

Creative quality first teaching: Teachers at Ellington primary school work collaboratively with children to bring children's learning to life. Teachers ensure that all children including those with special educational needs access high quality teaching to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to succeed. In French lessons, this can include using clear visual cues to aid the learning of vocabulary, planning extra support and scaffolding for children who would benefit from it, breaking learning down into manageable chunks and being crystal clear in instructions given through each lesson.

Clear instruction: Teaching is explicitly clear and tailored to the needs of individual children. Children repeat, rehearse and revisit language orally and in written form based on teacher modelling and modelling provided in the Language Angels scheme. This supports non-French speaking staff in speaking with accurate pronunciation and ensures confidence in subject knowledge. Teachers can then

use their knowledge of assessment to decide when to remove support and encourage independent learning.

Skilful questioning: Teachers used their skilled questioning techniques to support learners to reach their maximum potential. A mix of questions allows all children to engage in the lesson and support learning on an individualised level. Children feel they are able to contribute freely to the lesson with the correct level of questioning used.

Work we are proud of: Throughout school, we teach children the importance of well-presented, carefully planned work. Children are proud of their work and the effort and resilience taken to complete tasks are praised.

A creative, safe and supportive environment: Children and adults work together to make classrooms safe and happy places to be. Mistakes are celebrated and seen as opportunities to learn. Children are reminded of personal safety and risk assessment. We use the Zones of Regulation to support children in making positive choices around their behaviour and refer to class charters and school rules frequently.

Links to our curriculum drivers and school values: Wherever possible, teachers highlight links to curriculum drivers and school values so that children recognise their importance and support their learning. For example, links may be made with careers relevant to that subject or unit of work.

Lock it in task: Completed in the plenary. An opportunity to assess key learning from the lesson and use to support future planning.

Impact

The ability to assess pupil learning and progression in the key language skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) is provided by Language Angels and is based on the learning outcomes for each topic taught from the Language Angels scheme of work. This information is monitored by the French Subject Lead who uses this to ensure teaching is appropriate for each pupil, class and year group as well as to feed back on progress to SLT. Through monitoring end of topic assessments, looking through children's books and holding discussions with class teachers, it is evident that pupils are making a good level of progress through their French learning. We know that teaching and learning has been academically successful when children have met their 'end points'. This will be demonstrated through the results of end of unit assessments, as well as by looking through assessment overviews completed by the teachers of the French units, where children exceeding expectations or needing further support are highlighted.

The impact of teaching and learning is also determined through French Subject Lead reviews. This includes meeting children as often as possible, from Year 3 to Year 6, which provides them with the opportunity to display their understanding in speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar. During pupil voice meetings, we discuss French lessons with pupils including their favourite lessons and topics. We also discuss how pupils know they are making progress in their lessons and across topics which our children can confidently discuss.

Alongside these pupil voice opportunities, the French Subject Lead monitors the impact of teaching through frequent book looks. This has highlighted the success of French teaching at Ellington particularly with regard to our 'Knowledge Check' tasks which are designed to assess the recall and

retention of key information. We consciously ensure that the children's knowledge is not only checked from previous lessons but also previous topics. When teachers mark these tasks, it enables misconceptions to be addressed quickly and ensure progress is secure.

We have spent a few years embedding the 'Language Angels' scheme of work in Key Stage 2 at Ellington Primary School. This meant initially introducing units of work to all year groups at the 'early language teaching' stage and year on year, introducing more 'intermediate teaching' or 'progressive teaching' units of work in years 4, 5 and 6 as children have felt confident to tackle more complex grammar and vocabulary in French. Looking through the children's books now, it is clear to see that the children at the upper end of Key Stage 2 have been able to embrace the 'progressive teaching' units confidently, feeling able to speak the language in front of different audiences and for different purposes. With this strong foundation, looking forward we hope to build on the children's confidence and enthusiasm for French by really championing language learning throughout our school community. Children across Key Stage 2 will be offered the chance to attend French club and special French focus days will be introduced across Key Stage 2, allowing children to come together to celebrate the French language. We believe that we are creating a love of learning languages which is driving our children's aspirations to become lifelong language learners, in line with our curriculum driver.