



Elton Primary School & Nursery

Modern Foreign Languages Policy

In our school, the wellbeing and education of all our children comes first

Reviewed	Spring 2023
Review	Spring 2025

AIMS

This policy sets out the aims, principles and strategies for the delivery and implementation of the languages programme at Elton Primary School and Nursery. It will form the basis for the development of the languages programme in the school, in order to meet the Government requirements of every child being entitled to study a foreign language. At Elton we teach French to all Key Stage two children.

We believe that learning a foreign language can enrich the life and experience of our children:

“Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils’ curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.” (DfES, 2013, The National Curriculum in England)

Learning foreign languages reinforces the key approaches to teaching and learning set out in Excellence and Enjoyment: A Strategy for Primary Schools, and in carefully implementing the KS2 Framework for languages we ensure that we pay attention to how to best achieve the most positive outcomes for children.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of teaching a modern foreign language in Primary School is to promote the early development of a child’s linguistic competence. We also want to:

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

TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLE

Each class within KS2 teaches a 30-minute French session per week using ‘Primary Languages Network’ curriculum scheme and resources.

This is then topped up with any opportunities which arise to consolidate learning throughout the week such as during register time, counting in Maths, colours in Art, answering questions, etc.

- We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to engage actively in French: these include games, role-play and songs. Using a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching.
- We emphasise the listening and speaking skills, whilst also introducing children to reading and writing
- We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, developing a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children’s confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make.

- We teach the children to know and understand how to:
 - Listen and engage with spoken language, responding by asking and answering questions
 - Use correct intonation and pronunciation
 - Memorise words and phrases and use the familiar vocabulary to speak in sentences
 - Interpret meaning of words and phrases
 - Understand basic grammar
 - Work in pairs and groups to communicate and respond in French
 - Read and write simple, familiar words and phrases
 - Enjoy French stories, songs, poems and rhymes
 - Explore life in another culture

THE CONTRIBUTION OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO TEACHING IN OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH

Learning a modern foreign language naturally contributes to the development of our children's listening and speaking skills. It also develops the children's grasp of linguistic features such as rhyme, rhythm, stress and intonation. It allows them to broaden their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structure of words and vocabulary in both their native language, and in French.

MATHEMATICS

Children re-enforce their number skills by playing counting and calculation games.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP

One of the main benefits to the children of learning a modern foreign language at Primary School level is a social one. Those children who have difficulty in reading and writing, but who have good aural skills, will often find that they excel at speaking in foreign languages. This success breeds confidence, which in turn increases self-esteem and gives them a more positive attitude in school in general.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

By teaching a modern foreign language we contribute to the children's cultural education. They learn that many societies are multilingual. They can also begin to compare and contrast their own SMSC beliefs with others.

GEOGRAPHY

The children are able to research into the different countries in which French is spoken, particularly exploring France itself, looking at different geographical features, including; physical and human, location and place geography, as well as improving their geographical skills, such as map reading.

MUSIC

We teach children songs in French which helps them develop a sense of rhythm, it also familiarises them with music from a different culture.

SCIENCE

Children reinforce their knowledge of parts of the body through related games such as a French version of 'Simon Says' or 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'.

INCLUDING ALL LEARNERS

Inclusion involves the identification and minimising of barriers to learning and participation, and the maximising of resources to support learning and participation. We believe in giving children strategies to be successful.

At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.