



St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

M.F.L. Policy

"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us that it is more blessed to serve than to be served. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

At St Ethelbert's, in accordance with the guidelines and directives set in the revised National Curriculum, we teach a foreign language to all KS2 children as part of the normal school curriculum. French is taught as France is the closest foreign country to Ramsgate and we anticipate that it is the country which our children will most likely visit.

We teach a foreign language for several reasons: Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. And, thirdly, we also believe that it is beneficial to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is also widely thought that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is 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 the juniors for at least 30 minutes a week. The class teacher normally teaches the class. The lesson can be at any time and on any day of the week.

The curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school. The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. The topics that we cover incorporate their everyday lives, including school and home environments.

We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;

- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- use dictionaries;
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- look at life in another culture using Art and Geograph as a stimulus.

Teaching and learning style:

We base the teaching on the guidance material in the QCA scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children. We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We employ a variety of resources to support our teaching, including Interactive Whiteboard programmes (where the children can see pictures/short films and hear 'soundbites' of the words they are learning), CD ROMs, posters, pictures and flashcards. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build up the children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language lesson, however tentative.

Assessment

We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. This is done informally during the lessons in order to evaluate what the children have learned. Assessment will be recorded in three groups of top, middle and bottom - with highlighted coverage.

Assessment is in three key areas:

- listening and responding;
- speaking;
- reading and responding;

Monitoring and review

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other courses that we teach in the school. The headteacher also reports to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as in any other subject. The governors' curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching in French.

The co-ordinator liaises with the local secondary schools, so that they are aware of the modern foreign language experience of our children when they move to the next phase of their education.