

Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Policy

St. Thomas More's Catholic Primary School



Approved by the Governing Body: Spring 2026

Next Review: Spring 2029

Mission Statement

As we walk together with Jesus we love, live and learn.

Introduction

We teach a foreign language to all of our KS2 children as part of our normal school curriculum. We believe that a modern foreign language prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are often carried out in languages other than English. The rise of international commerce means that pupils need to be equipped with the skills needed by the international workplace. The choice of which language to teach is secondary to the lifelong language learning skills that the pupils will be encouraged to develop. Skills that they will be able to access in the future will help them to learn new languages or to improve their competence in an existing language. Increased capability in the use of MFL promotes initiative, confidence and independent learning and encourages diversity within society.

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 a 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

KS2 children have a weekly thirty minute lesson of modern foreign language a week, in order to ensure progression and skills development; additional tuition is

also provided by an external language specialist. The French native teacher visiting is there to enhance French teaching and act as CPD for the class teacher.

The Curriculum

Our chosen modern foreign language at St Thomas More's is French. We use Language Angels for a scheme of work as our basis for implementing the learning objectives set out in the National Curriculum (2014).

The children are taught 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 French;
- Look at life in another culture.

During French sessions children are given the opportunity to work as a class, as individuals and as part of a group. The choice of class organisation is determined by the learning task. By its nature, MFL will involve lots of interaction with visual, auditory and kinaesthetic prompts. During visits from the external language expert, the children will be exposed to French grammar, new and known vocabulary and the French phonetic system.

Resources

French resources are primarily found on our school drive or online, either through our current scheme of work Language Angels, or the use of websites such as Twinkl and French-Net. Displays are also on show in each KS2 classroom with a link to the current vocabulary being covered in each class's topic. There is the opportunity for children to attend a French club, to become a Language Ambassadors, and take part in MFL workshops organised the school or by the external language expert.

Inclusion

All KS2 pupils shall have the opportunity to develop MFL capability. Children with other languages at home are encouraged to use them for educational benefit and parents are offered advice about what is appropriate. Efforts are made to ensure that languages used at home are highlighted in the classroom once a teacher has been notified. Where possible, pupils who are native speakers of French will be encouraged to help promote the MFL curriculum through the use of correct pronunciation, intonation and grammar.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. The MFL teacher assesses the children's progress in the target language based on their achievement of the learning objectives in lessons. Summative data is recorded on our school assessment software, Sonar. Any written MFL work that is produced is marked in line with the school policy on marking. Photographs of the children's work can also be used to document progress.

Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out by the head teacher, a member of senior management or the MFL coordinator, in the following ways:

- Informal discussion with staff and pupils
- Planning scrutinies
- Work sampling - photos
- Classroom observation