



The contribution of MFL to the primary school curriculum

At Weetwood, we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. Pupils develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning. They develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between French and English. Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects. Learning a foreign language helps pupils to extend their communication skills and enhances self-esteem.

Aims and objectives

Through the teaching of MFL at Weetwood Primary School we aim to:

- foster an interest in learning other languages
- introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language
- encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another
- help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries
- develop their speaking and listening skills
- lay the foundations for future study
- extend language teaching beyond mother tongue learning

The children are taught how to:

- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and grammar
- memorise words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- use dictionaries

The children are taught by:

- conversing in groups and pairs
- looking at life in another culture
- singing songs, learning dances, playing games and using actions

Learning Outcomes

At Weetwood we are following the progressive strands of teaching and learning set out in the KS2 MFL Framework. These strands include objectives for Oracy, Literacy, Intercultural Understanding and Knowledge About Language. To do this we use the Jolie Ronde Schemes of Work which have all Framework objectives integrated in planning and lesson objectives.

We consider the main criterion of success to be that children go on from Weetwood to their secondary schools with a sound basic knowledge of some linguistic structures and associated vocabulary and with an enthusiasm to learn more.

Principals of teaching and learning

The main focus of MFL teaching at Weetwood is French. All pupils begin learning French in Year 3. French is taught in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Some elements of the foreign language need direct teaching in actual lessons so we have a time-tabled half hour lesson per week which forms a part of the school's policy to provide an enriched curriculum.

Weetwood School is continually developing a more creative, cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning, meaning much language learning can be done informally and incidentally through using the language for real purposes e.g. taking the register, classroom commands, giving routine instructions, celebrating achievements and birthdays.

We believe that a foreign language is effectively taught in ordinary classroom situations, using regular routines, songs and games which children find enjoyable and motivating. Both in lessons and in informal use of the foreign language the emphasis is on having fun!

The language structures and vocabulary that teachers need to effectively deliver the formal and informal content of the *Jolie Ronde* Scheme of Work are limited in scope and can be learnt easily by any enthusiastic primary teacher, whatever the starting point in the language concerned. We believe that non-specialist class teachers can effectively deliver the teaching of a modern foreign language using appropriate resources and with appropriate training.

Scheme of Work

This follows the *Jolie Ronde* Scheme of work and accompanying resources which are available on the school network and can be delivered in each classroom using data-projectors and Interactive Whiteboards.

Assessment

We are using the following methods of assessment:

- **Formative teacher assessment within normal class teaching.**

This will allow the teacher to differentiate the style of questioning and conversation used for individual pupils and enables them to plan their next step teaching. Staff will make use of an MFL Skills Ladder in order to inform and adapt teaching and therefore may select work according to pupil need rather than adhering rigidly to the "La Jolie Ronde" age related lesson content.

- **Summative assessment in the annual end of year report to parents.**

The curriculum

At Weetwood, the curriculum is based on the KS2 MFL Framework and *La Jolie Ronde Wakefield French* Scheme of Work. The long-, medium- and short-term objectives are stated in the Scheme of Work, along with detailed lesson plans and resources. These provide classroom teachers with the support they need in delivering French as a non-specialist. As stated, these may be used flexibly according to pupil need.

Planning for continuity and progression

Both the scheme of work and the class teachers' formative assessments will ensure that there is continuity through the teaching of French at KS2 but also that the children make good progress and develop their language skills.

