Landscore Primary School

Purpose of study

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.

Aims

The National Curriculum for Languages aims to ensure that all pupils: 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 and discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

Intent

We believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for pupils. They develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the foreign language and English. We have chosen to focus on French here at Landscore, to enable children to make substantial progress across Key Stage 2, and to build their confidence at communicating and understanding the language in readiness not only for their journey into secondary school, but to inspire them for their possible future travel and interactions in a multi-lingual and multicultural world.

We know that fun and engaging lessons, and working towards special activity days, will promote an enthusiasm for learning French. It also provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects. French learning provides an opportunity for our already bilingual and EAL children to share their experiences of language use and structure. MFL allows children to learn in active and engaging ways, often without pen or paper.

In Lower KS2, children acquire basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing their Speaking and Listening skills. These will be embedded and further developed in Upper KS2, alongside Reading and Writing, gradually progressing onto more complex language concepts.

Implementation

All classes in KS2 are taught French both formally and informally. Learning intentions and success criteria are shared with the children. Lessons may include games, songs, stories, oral work, role-play and active participation as well as listening and talking. Reading and written tasks are included with increasing frequency as the children advance throughout the school. Teachers are encouraged to use French informally, during the day when appropriate (greetings, register, instructions, praise etc.) particularly on 'French Fridays' which KS1 also join in with to begin to foster an interest in French prior to entering KS2.

In Key Stage 2, French is taught formally once a week and planning follows the objectives shown in our Key Progression document.

Impact

- To foster a positive, enthusiastic attitude to MFL learning
- To develop the ability to communicate using the French Language
- To develop confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing in French
- To learn about some of the cultural aspects of France
- To foster an interest in learning other languages and how other languages work.
- To encourage awareness that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another