



# St Mary's Catholic Academy

## Modern Foreign Languages - French Policy

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### Intent

At St Mary's Catholic Academy, all pupils have the right to a rich and deep learning experience that includes the study of a modern foreign language. Learning French enables pupils to communicate beyond their own community, to understand and respect different cultures and to participate confidently in a diverse and interconnected world. This reflects our Catholic mission to recognise the dignity of every person and to promote respect, empathy and global responsibility.

The study of languages develops pupils' ability to think, listen, speak, read and write with precision and confidence. It strengthens their understanding of grammar, syntax and sentence structure, while also encouraging independence, curiosity and resilience. Through French, pupils are given access to ideas, experiences and cultures beyond their own, helping them to become open-minded and culturally aware learners.

The French curriculum at St Mary's Catholic Academy meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for languages at Key Stage 2.

Through the teaching of French at St Mary's Catholic Academy, we aim to:

- ensure every child in Key Stage 2 has the opportunity to study French as a modern foreign language
  - develop pupils' confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing in French
  - enable pupils to use simple and increasingly complex French for everyday classroom communication, including days, months, numbers and instructions
  - build secure foundations in phonics, vocabulary and grammar so pupils understand how the language works
  - develop pupils' understanding of French and Francophone cultures and their place in the wider world
  - support pupils' transition to Key Stage 3 by ensuring they leave with secure, usable language knowledge
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## Implementation

The French curriculum at St Mary's Catholic Academy is carefully designed and sequenced to ensure clear progression across Key Stage 2. It is delivered using the Kapow Primary French scheme, which provides high-quality resources, progression frameworks and professional support for staff. These materials are used to enact St Mary's curriculum intent and ensure consistency and ambition across year groups.

French is taught weekly. The curriculum is structured as a spiral, so that key knowledge in phonics, vocabulary and grammar is introduced, revisited and extended over time. Pupils learn to apply this knowledge through listening, speaking, reading and writing so that French becomes a working language rather than a collection of isolated words.

Teachers plan collaboratively within the agreed curriculum framework. Kapow resources, including audio, phonics videos and lesson materials, support accurate pronunciation and well-sequenced learning, while teachers retain professional autonomy to adapt activities to meet the needs of their pupils.

Lessons include a range of engaging and purposeful activities such as songs, rhymes, stories, role-play, drama, grammar focus, sentence building, dictionary work and writing tasks. French is also used in daily routines, for example when taking the register and displaying the date, so that pupils regularly hear and use the language.

The curriculum is inclusive and accessible. Teachers use scaffolding, modelling, visual and multi-sensory approaches so that all pupils, including those with SEND, can participate and make progress.

Learning is enriched through a range of wider opportunities, including:

- a **French residential** in Years 5 and 6, allowing pupils to use their language in real-life contexts
- celebration of the **European Day of Languages** and **Bastille Day**
- extra-curricular language clubs including **French, Spanish, Italian and German**

These experiences strengthen pupils' cultural capital and help them to see languages as valuable and exciting.



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## Impact

The impact of the French curriculum at St Mary's is seen in pupils who are confident, enthusiastic and increasingly independent language learners. Pupils develop the ability to understand and communicate in French and demonstrate growing awareness of other cultures and ways of life.

Teachers use ongoing formative assessment and unit-level assessment tools to identify what pupils know, remember and can do, and to inform future teaching.

The impact of the curriculum is monitored through:

- pupil discussions and verbal responses in lessons
- teacher assessment of language use and understanding
- observation of pupils applying their language skills in a range of contexts
- children using their cultural understanding to show respect, tolerance and curiosity

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils have secure foundations in phonics, vocabulary and grammar which support a smooth and successful transition to Key Stage 3.

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## Review and Development

The French curriculum is reviewed annually by the subject leader to ensure progression, coherence and alignment with whole-school priorities. This includes reviewing curriculum design, teaching approaches and the effectiveness of resources in meeting the needs of all pupils.