

Nelson Academy Primary Languages Intent Statement

2021/22

At Nelson Academy, our aim when teaching French - which is our foreign language of choice - reflects the National Curriculum's belief that we can liberate our children from insularity and provide an opening to other cultures. We want children to have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the world and enjoy learning a second or maybe even a third language! We encourage our pupils to learn through creative activities such as song and dance. Children are encouraged to develop their awareness of cultural differences between countries. We strive to embed the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing to enable children to use and apply their French learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning.

Children enjoy an interactive scheme (Rigolo) that not only helps them with language acquisition and pronunciation but also supports them with basic grammar (including feminine, masculine and neuter forms) and sentence structure. Pupils are then encouraged to compare new language learning with the grammar in English. Children in the early years of language learning are able to appreciate songs, stories, poems and rhymes in French and concentrate on speaking and listening skills.

They engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others. As they progress, they broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary and write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.

Annually, we hope to have an international day across the academy to embrace our multi-cultural society. Children learn key words and phrases from different languages (often supported by some of our EAL students and families), prepare and eat international snacks and dishes, sing songs, study different countries and even dance and participate in sports from around the world.

Pupils are assessed with unit tests in speaking, listening, reading and writing which, in turn, informs teacher assessment. Pupils will be confident and enthusiastic when conversing in French, reading and writing and are ready to continue their journey of language learning.