



# **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES POLICY (FRENCH)**

**UPDATED MAY 2017**

*“Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained can make a major contribution to the development of children’s oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture/s and those of others.”*

The Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages

At Birkwood Primary School we believe that the learning of an additional language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children an additional perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

### **Aims and Objectives of French Primary Language Education at Birkwood Primary School:**

The aims of French Primary Language teaching at Birkwood are to:

- foster an interest in language learning by introducing children to French in a way that is fun, enjoyable and accessible to all pupils;
- stimulate and encourage children’s curiosity about language and creativity
- in experimenting with it;
- support oracy and literacy, and in particular develop speaking and listening skills;
- help children develop their awareness of cultural similarities and differences;
- lay the foundations for future language study by pupils.

### **Speaking and Listening**

At Birkwood Primary School the children will learn to:

- listen carefully and recognise sounds and combinations of sounds which are similar to, or different from, those of English;
- understand and respond with increasing competence, accuracy and confidence in a range of situations;
- join in songs, rhymes and stories which enable them to practise the sounds of the language in an enjoyable and age appropriate way;
- take part in conversations at an appropriate level, reacting to instructions and questions and expressing opinions and feelings.

### **Reading and Writing**

At Birkwood Primary School the children will learn to:

- remember grapheme-phoneme correspondences and vocabulary directly taught and reinforced through word games and similar activities;
- read stories and rhymes for enjoyment and to gain awareness of the structure of the written language;
- read, copy and write independently familiar words and simple phrases in context e.g. classroom items, display labels, weather chart, date;
- write sentences and short texts independently and from memory.

### **Intercultural Understanding**

At Birkwood Primary School the children will learn to:

- identify similarities and differences in everyday life, social conventions, traditional stories and celebrations;
- recognise how symbols, products and objects can represent the culture of a country, and how aspects of the culture of different countries become incorporated in the daily life of others;
- gain awareness of stereotypes, and develop further understanding and respect cultural diversity.

### **Teaching and Learning Primary Languages at Birkwood Primary School**

At Birkwood Primary School we aim to integrate language learning into everyday school life, with teachers, teaching assistants and children using and experimenting with their knowledge of French

whenever the opportunity arises. We foster a problem-solving approach, giving children opportunities to work out language use for themselves in a supportive context where risk-taking and creativity are encouraged, and there is an emphasis on having fun with the new language. ICT is used where appropriate to enhance teaching and learning.

There are two main contexts in which language teaching and learning takes place.

**Kommentar [S1]:** Removed

### Key Stage 2 Language Lessons

Although Primary Language learning cuts across the curriculum, children are taught specific skills, concepts and vocabulary in a weekly dedicated lesson with a visiting French specialist. Consolidation activities are suggested by the French teacher so that the class teacher can reinforce new language during the week.

### Key Stage 1 Language Club

Birkwood currently has a French Club where KS1 children can learn French in a fun and age appropriate way, the emphasis being on storytelling, singing and movement.

**Kommentar [S2]:** No longer a KS1 language club

Children are also taught that all languages and cultures are important; children learn about different cultures and experiment with lots of different languages on European Day of Languages, which is an annual event.

This integrated approach is a strong model for teaching and learning, giving children opportunities to use and develop their language for communicating in stress-free, real-life contexts.

### Inclusion

Primary Language teaching at Birkwood Primary School aims to be fully inclusive. No child is excluded by reason of a learning difficulty, or because they have English as an additional language. Language learning research indicates that some children can derive particular benefit from taking part in Primary Language learning activities in which they may be less disadvantaged than in other areas of the curriculum.

Language learning activities are planned in such a way as to encourage the full and active participation of all pupils. Work is differentiated as appropriate to the needs of individual children. Pairs and groups for collaborative work may be made up in different ways, depending on the task.

### Monitoring Progress and Assessing Attainment

Assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. The French teacher assesses the children's progress on a termly basis, based on their achievement of the learning objectives in lessons. These informal assessments will be used to identify gifted linguists and those requiring extra support. This information is shared with the class teacher.

If any substantive written French work is produced, it is marked against the National Curriculum levels for French.

**Kommentar [S3]:** Edited – No longer using NC levels. Edited to say work would be marked and targets for development given.

The priority will be to give each Year 6 child a nationally recognised French level for moving onto secondary school. This is to enable the secondary school to avoid repetition in language learning after transition to the secondary stage.

**Kommentar [S4]:** No longer a 'Nationally recognised level' which would help for transfer at secondary. Edited to say, if appropriate, French teacher would liaise with secondary colleagues to ensure smooth transition.

### Monitoring and review

The Governing Body reviews this policy every two years. The Governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

This policy will be reviewed in March 2017.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Date \_\_\_\_\_

