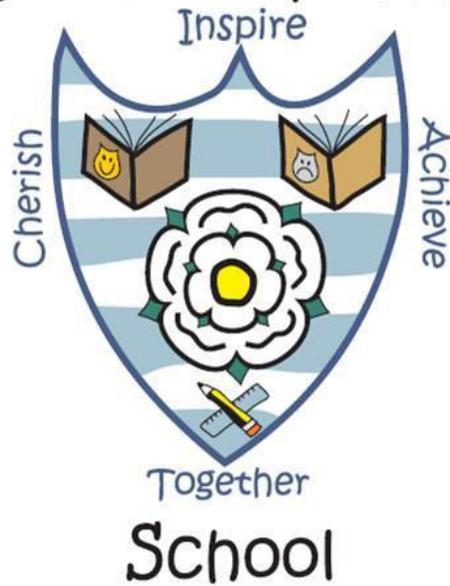


Birkwood Primary



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

**UPDATED JUNE 2019**

*“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.

### **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 and all class teachers have access to the interactive games website, Linguascope, in order to further consolidate new learning during the week. Children can also log in from home if they so wish.

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. Each task comprises a one star, two star or three star challenge plus an open ended 'superbonus' challenge for the most able children. Children are encouraged to self-assess their own confidence level and then select the level of challenge which is most appropriate for them. This in turn provides both scaffolded tasks and more independent tasks in a supportive and encouraging environment. 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. Children's language learning is described as either being 'Emerging' 'Developing' 'Mastered' or 'Greater Depth' at each assessment point. This data is analysed on a termly basis and progress across cohort groups is monitored (whole class, girls, boys, SEN, PP and EAL). Percentage increase and decrease in cohort groups is tracked so that additional support can be identified and implemented where appropriate. This information is shared with the class teacher.

### **Collaboration / Celebration Events**

In order to reward the children's effort and successes in French and to encourage collaborative working between children of different schools and communities, a Celebration Day is run each year by the French Teacher. Five schools are currently involved and two children from every Key Stage 2 class are invited to participate. The children work in teams and take part in a series of collaborative activities. These are activities that the children might not normally get the chance to participate in, such as playing Pétanque, Eiffel Tower building, French themed arts and craft activities and tasting French foods.

### **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 June 2021.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_