Sandy Lane Primary School

French Curriculum



Introducing French



Building confidence



Developing Fluency



Independent Language Use

Intent

At Sandy Lane Primary School, our intent is to provide a carefully structured, progressive approach to the teaching of French that ensures steady and sustained language development across all phases. Our aim is to nurture confident, articulate pupils who can communicate effectively in both French and English, developing fluency, grammatical accuracy, and cultural awareness. We believe that language learning enhances cognitive development, supports English literacy, and develops global citizenship. Through systematic progression, we enable our pupils to express themselves with increasing confidence, accuracy, and sophistication as they move through the school.

Implementation

Our French curriculum is delivered in four progressive phases:

Phase 1: Establishing Foundations
In the initial phase, pupils are introduced to the basics of French through structured vocabulary learning, sentence-building, and grammar instruction. Repetition and guided speaking and writing activities help build confidence. Pupils practise switching between English and French in simple contexts, with a strong emphasis on accuracy. Activities include songs, dialogues, role-play, and supported writing to establish a solid foundation.

Phase 2: Expanding Vocabulary and Sentence Complexity
As pupils advance, they expand their vocabulary and begin constructing more complex sentences. Emphasis is placed on spontaneous speaking and writing, with pupils encouraged to express opinions, ask questions, and justify their answers. The transition between French and English becomes more fluid, supported by more challenging grammar work and conversational practice. Activities include peer dialogues, extended writing, and interactive games to deepen understanding.

Phase 3: Refining Fluency and Expression
By this stage, pupils are encouraged to communicate with greater fluency and sophistication. They explore a wider range of vocabulary, sentence structures, and grammatical forms. Pupils are supported to express detailed ideas clearly in both written and spoken forms. They begin to use multiple tenses and mood forms, integrating their knowledge in diverse contexts. Activities include presentations, creative writing, and structured debates.

Phase 4: Mastery and Spontaneous Interaction
In the final phase, pupils demonstrate mastery in using French alongside English. They confidently engage in spontaneous conversation, presentations, and discussions across a range of topics. Pupils use grammar accurately and adapt their language according to the context. This phase focuses on independence and application, with minimal scaffolding. Activities include real-world role-plays, bilingual presentations, and open-ended discussion tasks.

Impact

By the time pupils leave Sandy Lane Primary School, they are confident, competent communicators who can express themselves clearly and accurately in both French and English. They demonstrate strong grammatical knowledge, a broad vocabulary, and the ability to switch between languages fluidly. Our pupils develop a love of languages and an appreciation of other cultures, preparing them well for the next stage of their education. Pupil outcomes show progression in language proficiency, with increasing independence, fluency, and accuracy at each stage. The impact of this structured approach is reflected in pupils' enthusiasm for French, their active engagement in lessons, and their ability to communicate effectively in diverse contexts.

Progression

Progression Overview
Progression: The progression from phase to phase is designed to build not just language knowledge, but also confidence. The goal is to ensure that by the final stage, students can interact in both languages, showing some fluency and flexibility. Each year builds on the previous one, gradually moving from foundational skills to more complex language use. As students become more comfortable, they can participate in more sophisticated dialogues and present ideas in a coherent manner, using French and English in ways that feel natural and confident.

Detailed Progression Overview
By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils should: • Understand and respond to spoken and written language. • Speak with increasing confidence, fluency, and spontaneity. • Write for a range of purposes using learned vocabulary and structures. • Develop an appreciation of French culture and language.

LKS2	Strand	Objectives	Example Activity	Expected Outcomes
Phase 1: Introduction to French	Listen attentively to spoken language.	Develop listening and speaking confidence.	Respond to greetings (Bonjour! Comment ça va ?) and classroom instructions (écoutez).	Understand and respond to simple phrases.
	Explore patterns and sounds through songs.	Recognise and respond to basic French vocabulary.	Learn rhymes and songs (e.g., Frère Jacques, L'Alphabet Français).	Sing along, mimicking correct pronunciation.
	Broaden vocabulary.		Learn numbers (1–10), colours, and classroom objects (une gomme, un crayon).	Recall and use vocabulary in class activities.

	Introduce French culture.		Learn about France's location, flag, and simple traditions (e.g., Galette des Rois).	Develop an understanding of French cultural elements.
Phase 2: Building confidence	Engage in conversations; ask and answer	Begin to form sentences and ask simple questions.	Practice dialogues (Comment tu t'appelles ? Quel âge as-tu ?).	Participate in paired conversations using memorised phrases.
	Broaden vocabulary and write phrases.	Expand vocabulary related to everyday topics.	Learn days, months, and weather phrases (Il fait beau).	Write short sentences about weather or dates.
	Develop accurate pronunciation.		Recite vocabulary and short phrases with a focus on sounds (e.g., é, è, ç).	Pronounce familiar words with increasing accuracy.
	Understand basic grammar.		Introduce gender of nouns (le/la), definite articles, and plurals (les chiens).	Identify and use correct articles and plural forms.
	Explore cultural knowledge.		Study landmarks (e.g., Eiffel Tower) and customs (e.g., Poisson d'Avril).	Share cultural facts in discussions.

UKS2				
Phase 3: Developing Fluency	Express opinions and describe people, places, and objects.	Listen and understand longer phrases.	Listen to short stories or dialogues and answer comprehension questions.	Demonstrate understanding of key points in spoken French.
	Begin to construct more complex sentences.	Describe people and places orally.	Use adjectives to describe objects or people (un grand arbre, une petite fille).	Form descriptive sentences with basic agreement.
		Ask and respond to questions.	Practice conversations using question starters (Qu'est-ce que...? Où...?).	Engage in role-play scenarios with appropriate responses.
		Develop writing skills.	Write simple paragraphs about self, family, or hobbies (J'ai un frère et une sœur.).	Write a few sentences with some grammatical accuracy.
	Explore French culture in depth.		Learn about French holidays (e.g., Bastille Day) and famous personalities.	Present findings to peers using basic vocabulary.
Phase 4: Independent Language Use	Use French creatively in conversations and	Develop spontaneous speaking skills.	Engage in class discussions or	Speak in full sentences with confidence and

	writing.		presentations about hobbies or daily life.	some spontaneity.
	Show increasing accuracy in grammar and pronunciation.	Write from memory for a purpose. Understand and apply grammar.	Write short letters or stories (e.g., Ma journée scolaire). Use verb conjugations (je vais, nous sommes), tenses, and possessive pronouns. Read simple stories or watch age-appropriate French videos.	Produce coherent texts with support and minimal errors. Apply grammar rules accurately in speaking and writing. Respond to content by answering questions or summarising ideas.
	Appreciate French literature and media.	Explore modern and historical culture.	Research cities, cuisine, or history (e.g., French Revolution, Paris landmarks).	Share detailed presentations using a mix of French and English.

Assessment Grids

Phase 1: Introduction to French

Strand	Objective	WTS		EXS		GDS	
Listening & Speaking	Understands and responds to simple phrases.	Requires prompting to respond.		Responds with some accuracy.		Responds confidently and spontaneously.	
Vocabulary	Recognises and recalls basic words.	Remembers a few key words.		Uses familiar words accurately.		Applies vocabulary in different contexts.	
Pronunciation	Repeats and sings along with basic accuracy.	Attempts pronunciation but with frequent errors.		Pronounces common words correctly.		Pronounces words accurately with good intonation.	

Cultural Awareness	Identifies French symbols and traditions.	Recognises a few cultural elements.		Identifies key symbols and traditions.		Explains cultural elements in detail.	

Phase 4: Building Confidence

Strand	Objective	WTS	%	EXS	%	GDS	%
Speaking & Conversations	Engages in basic dialogues.	Uses single words or short phrases.		Forms simple sentences with support.		Speaks in extended phrases with confidence.	
Vocabulary & Writing	Writes short sentences.	Writes single words or incomplete phrases.		Writes simple, structured sentences.		Writes independently with some complexity.	
Grammar	Identifies and applies gendered nouns and plural forms.	Recognises some gendered nouns.		Uses le/la/les with reasonable accuracy.		Applies rules consistently with new words.	

Cultural Awareness	Recognises landmarks and traditions.	Knows a few cultural facts.		Describes landmarks and traditions.		Explains cultural significance confidently.	

Phase 5: Developing Fluency

Strand	Objective	WTS	%	EXS	%	GDS	%
Listening & Comprehension	Understands key points in short dialogues.	Understands a few familiar words.		Follows key points with some support.		Understands details and responds accurately.	
Descriptive Language	Uses adjectives correctly.	Uses basic descriptions with errors.		Forms simple descriptive sentences.		Uses varied adjectives with correct agreement.	
Speaking	Participates in role-play.	Speaks with hesitation and support.		Uses memorised phrases with accuracy.		Responds fluently with varied vocabulary.	
Writing	Writes simple paragraphs.	Writes fragmented sentences.		Structures short paragraphs with some accuracy.		Writes independently using different tenses.	

Cultural Awareness	Discusses aspects of French culture.	Recognises key events and figures.		Explains cultural elements with some detail.		Compares French culture to own experiences.	

Phase 6: Independent Language Use

Strand	Objective	WTS		EXS		GDS	
Spontaneous Speaking	Engages in conversations confidently.	Speaks in rehearsed sentences.		Holds a conversation with some prompting.		Speaks fluently with natural expression.	
Writing	Writes structured texts with minimal errors.	Writes with frequent grammar mistakes.		Uses a range of structures with general accuracy.		Writes creatively with varied structures.	
Grammar & Accuracy	Applies verb conjugations and tenses.	Uses basic tenses inconsistently.		Forms correct verb endings in familiar contexts.		Applies multiple tenses accurately.	
Cultural Awareness	Explores French literature and history.	Recognises key figures and events.		Describes cultural aspects with some detail.		Explains historical and literary context confidently.	

Sandy Lane Primary School French Overview

Year A	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
LKS 2	Introduce French greetings. Understand and respond to simple phrases.	Recognise and recall basic words with more fluency.	Repeat and sing songs with basic accuracy	Learn numbers (1–10), colours, and classroom objects (une gomme, un crayon).	Introduce French culture.	Broaden vocabulary. Recall and use vocabulary in class activities
UKS2	Identify Adjectives *Objects and people*	Incorporate adjectives into short sentences	Conversations	Explore French culture	French celebrations	Conversations and comprehension
YEAR B						
LKS 2	Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions	Learn days, months, and weather phrases (Il fait	Recite vocabulary and short phrases with a focus on sounds (e.g., é, è, ç).	Introduce gender of nouns (le/la), definite articles, and plurals (les chiens).	Develop accurate pronunciation.	Explore French l;andmarks

		beau).				
UK S2	**Identify Hobbies and Verbs**	**Have conversations** ***Develop spontaneous speaking skills***	**Write from memory** ***Understand and apply grammar***	**French literature and media.**	**Explore modern and historical culture.** ***Cities, cuisine and history***	**Conversations and comprehension**