

# FOREIGN LANGUAGES (French) INTENT

## Marlborough Road Academy

### Intent

At Marlborough Road Academy, we teach French as our foreign language. We base our offer on the National Curriculum (2014) entitlement to learn a foreign language between Years 3 and 6.

‘Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils’ curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.’

### (The National Curriculum)

Learning French at Marlborough Road Academy gives children an opportunity to communicate in another language, which they can ultimately use in the real world. It also enables the children to develop early language acquisition skills that facilitate their understanding of the patterns of language and how these differ from or are similar to English. It helps them to develop communication skills, including the key skills of speaking and listening, and extends their knowledge of how language works. Although the children at Marlborough Road Academy are from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, it ensures all children have an equal chance of experiencing a different culture. French lessons allow some of our pupils to excel in this particular subject area. 47 languages are spoken at the school and pupils are adept at moving between the linguistic demands of different languages and making connections with language structures they already know.

**Building on the United Learning Framework for Excellence, the Marlborough Road Academy French curriculum has six core principles:**

**Entitlement:** All pupils have the right to learn what is in the Marlborough Road Academy curriculum, and we have a duty to ensure that all pupils are taught the whole of it.

**Coherence:** Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so that powerful knowledge builds term by term and year by year. We make meaningful connections within subjects and between subjects.

**Mastery:** We ensure that foundational knowledge, skills and concepts are secure before moving on. Pupils revisit prior learning and apply their understanding in new contexts.

**Adaptability:** The core content – the ‘what’ – of the curriculum is stable, but we will bring it to life in our own local context, and teachers will adapt lessons – the ‘how’ – to meet the needs of their own classes.

**Representation:** All pupils see themselves in our curriculum, and our curriculum takes all pupils beyond their immediate experience.

**Education with character:** Our curriculum - which includes the taught subject timetable as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, our co-curricular provision and the ethos and ‘hidden curriculum’ of the school – is intended to spark curiosity and to nourish both the head and the heart.



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Core knowledge and specific vocabulary are identified for each unit and a development of **powerful knowledge**, skills and attitudes are woven through each unit. The **vertical concepts** (big ideas) that run through the curriculum are:

- Understand and respond
- Speak
- Write
- Cultural Appreciation

Lessons are mostly practical and delivered through verbal communication. Pupils listen to examples in the target language; engaging in simple conversations by expressing opinions; speaking in simple sentences using familiar vocabulary, phrases and sentence structures; developing accurate pronunciation and intonation. At the end of each unit of work the children have the opportunity to write from memory in simple words, phrases and sentences. Children are introduced to basic French grammar, such as feminine and masculine form and accents. The curriculum has been devised in consultation with local secondary schools, so that pupils are well prepared for the demands of K.S 3.

The published scheme 'Language Angels' is being introduced at Marlborough Road Academy from September 2022. This scheme has been chosen as it encourages high levels of participation through songs and games. It includes video exemplification to model pronunciation by a native speaker and includes opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding through remote online learning. Furthermore, all language is accompanied by pictures which supports the scientific theory of dual coding and aids both children whose first language isn't English and those with SEND.

### Implementation

At Marlborough Road Academy, French is taught in 30 minute slots once each week from long term planning detailed in the scheme. The planning covers a wide range of topic areas to each year group and each unit runs for 6 weeks. The planning has been designed around children acquiring simple words and phrases, and each year there is progression and previous is built upon. For example, In year 3, "I'm learning French" includes basic phrases and verbs, which can help when learning "Presenting myself" in Year 4. Learning "Fruits" in year 4 will help when children learn about "vegetables" in year 5/6. Learning days of the week in year 3, will help pupils in year 5/6 be able to write the date.

Our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of French involves crafting lessons around **Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction** and planning for the following:

- A knowledge organiser outlining the substantive and disciplinary knowledge, including vocabulary and the translation, that all children must master.
- A cycle of lessons, which carefully plans for progression and depth.
- Interactive games and songs that will enhance the learning experience.
- Classroom working walls which detail current, prior and future learning, the substantive and disciplinary knowledge children will learn, key vocabulary with definitions, and the vertical concept the area of learning falls within.



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- Scaffolding within each lesson for children that need support and deepening tasks for children who require additional challenge
- The use of kagan structures to ensure that all children are fully participating in their learning in a supportive and safe environment
- High quality modelling and direct instructions
- Questioning to assess understanding

French is inclusive and all pupils are expected to participate.

SEND children have access to the same curriculum as non SEND pupils and are assessed in the same way, however, their activity may be scaffolded in order to remove their barrier to learning. For example, if a child's specific needs relate to processing, a smaller number of key words may be taught with lots of repetition and rehearsal. We believe that it is important to give SEND children the opportunity to show their understanding in French in a way that is appropriate for them, in order for them to demonstrate the depth and breadth of their understanding.

### Enrichment:

Pupils mark Bastille Day with a themed event, covering food, sport, history, art, architecture, geography etc.

### Impact

'Language Angels' is progressive, giving pupils the skills and knowledge that they need to move forward in their learning, alongside opportunities to practise their exiting knowledge. When children keep up with the curriculum, they are considered to be making progress towards the identified end points the curriculum builds to. This enables pupils to access the next stage of their education.

Regular, low stakes assessments in lessons enable teachers to assess each pupil's understanding of the curriculum. These include:

- Retrieval practice at the beginning of each lesson to review prior learning. This demonstrates how well children can remember and recall key knowledge. It also enables teachers to identify gaps in knowledge and/or address misconceptions with 'in the moment' feedback.
- Spaced retrieval after a period of time to assess how well pupils have remembered prior learning over time.
- A simple written activity at the end of each unit

Children at Marlborough Road Academy look forward to their weekly foreign language lesson.

Studying any languages at Key Stage Two lays the foundations for further language learning at Key Stage Three.

From September 2022 French will replace Spanish as the foreign language taught at Marlborough Road Academy. All year groups will follow the Year 3 planning so that learning builds from firm foundations. This will change in school year 2023-24, when Year 3 will follow planning for Year 3 and Years 4-6 will follow Year 4 planning. This will continue to be built on each year until all children are following the curriculum for their chronological year group. Language Angels accommodated planning for mixed age classes.

