Modern Foreign Languages: French

Our Intent Statement:

At Great Finborough Church Primary School, we understand the importance of preparing our children for living and working in a global community. The exploration of different languages and cultures is an essential part of this process where we aim to demonstrate that learning a new language can be a fulfilling and engaging experience for all.

We aim to provide our children with the skills to learn an additional language which can then be developed further as they continue on their educational journey. This process begins in KS1 where the main focus is to familiarise the children with a contrasting culture to their own. From an early age we aim for the children to enjoy exploring a new language, laying foundations that can be built on further in KS2. This is achieved through interactive and creative activities including games, songs, rhymes, arts and crafts with a focus on speaking and listening at this point. At this early stage, children are most receptive to the new vocabulary and pronunciation skills required to learn a new language. Our goal is to take advantage of this unique stage of development allowing the children to get a head-start in learning modern foreign languages.

From KS2 our objective is further the skills acquired in KS1 and put these into relatable contexts. Speaking and listening continue to be a main focus, with reading and writing skills beginning to come to the forefront heading towards UKS2. Pupils will be provided with the vocabulary, skills and knowledge to have basic conversations, communicating with others through asking questions, listening carefully to responses and replying appropriately. It is our aim that the children will be able to read and write simple captions and labels then extend this further to more detailed sentences with increased grammatical awareness by the end of KS2.

Alongside studying French as a Modern Foreign Language the children will also have opportunities to develop their knowledge of France itself. This includes knowing where French is spoken in the world, the geographical location of France and key cultural aspects such as foods, festivals and traditions. They will be able to compare life in France with their own life in the United Kingdom, identifying key differences and similarities with the aim of cultivating respect and understanding of contrasting cultures and lifestyles. Where possible, we provide children with curriculum enrichment opportunities and have even taken a trip to France for a more authentic, memorable experience.

Our overall intention at Great Finborough Primary School is that all children have a positive, enthusiastic start to learning new languages.

Our Implementation Statement:

All children have the opportunity to learn a modern foreign language at Great Finborough Primary School through regular lessons using engaging and enjoyable schemes of work. These schemes effectively incorporate the cultural knowledge and understanding of life in a different country alongside the acquisition of the language itself.

In KS1 the children have a weekly French lesson where they are introduced to the French language through the ‘Camembear’ scheme. ‘Camembear’ is a hand puppet used by the teacher to guide the children through their learning. Each week the children wake ‘Camembear’ up by singing and speaking to him in French. He then emerges from his magic bag ready to teach the topic of the week. The magic bag sometimes contains items linking to the learning that will take place and the children enjoy finding out what mystery item is in the bag when the lesson begins. An interactive display of games, songs and rhymes is used alongside the puppet to further illustrate any new concepts and

vocabulary. The children really enjoy talking to 'Camembear' in French and listening to his replies. This is an effective way of engaging the younger children in our school with learning a new language. The year-long program allows the children to explore a range of topics and gradually build a range of basic French vocabulary including; hello, goodbye, my name is … yes, no, please, thank you, how are you? The children also learn numbers 1-10 in French as well as colour names.

Through learning about Camembear's life in France the children begin to develop the cultural awareness that is explored further in KS2. They label a map of France and the surrounding countries and discuss ways of travelling to France from the UK. They make and colour the French flag. They explore Camembear's photo album, learning about his family members, pets and the places he likes to visit. We also learn the different parts of the body and even celebrate Camembear's birthday together. The latter provides a fantastic opportunity for the children to taste some French food.

Our only KS1 class contains children from year 1 and year 2. The 'Camembear' scheme is taught to all pupils and then reinforced again and extended for year 2 pupils before they move on to KS2. Confident year 2 pupils have extra writing and reading opportunities relating to the topics taught and also act as 'learning buddies' for the year 1 children supporting them in their learning and applying their knowledge in a supportive role.

In LKS2 the children continue to have a weekly French lesson extending their learning using the Oxford Owl Rigolo 1 Scheme. Through the characters of the Mills family and residents of Rigolo Castle we now focus more on all areas of language development: speaking, listening, reading and writing with a greater awareness of spelling and grammar coming to the forefront. The children learn to have more complex conversations and vocabulary is vastly extended.

In UKS2 the children move on to the Oxford Owl Rigolo 2 scheme where the knowledge and skills developed through Rigolo 1 are extended even further. A deeper understanding of the grammatical structure of sentences becomes more significant and conversations involve more complex concepts such as giving opinions and detailed descriptions. The range of vocabulary used continues to widen further as children prepare for their transition to secondary education. The detailed contents of the Camembear and Rigolo schemes of work can be found in our Breadth of Study Maps for French.

Assessment opportunities are part of both schemes and used to track pupil progress. Ongoing marking and feedback is used on a weekly basis to inform teaching and planning as well as set the pace for progression and reinforcement of learning. Overall progress is shared with parents through scheduled opportunities to look at their children's books throughout the year and written end of year reports.

As previously stated, every opportunity is taken to enrich the curriculum and develop knowledge of France through events, celebrations and trips.

Our Impact Statement:

By the time children leave our school, they will have developed their own personal language learning strategies, with the confidence, knowledge and skills to have basic conversations in French. Their vocabulary will be extensive enough that they will be able to engage in a variety of useful conversations in different everyday situations. Accuracy of pronunciation and awareness of grammar, language structures and patterns will be becoming more secure and they will have acquired the skills needed to read and write simple labels, captions, phrases and grammatically correct sentences. Throughout our school, there will be a sense of respect, understanding and appreciation of the contrasts in culture and lifestyle between the UK and France. Our pupils will be

keen to learn more about how children live in France and how this may differ from their own everyday experiences. Our pupils will embrace learning a new language, acquiring skills that can be further advanced in French itself or transferred to learning of other languages in the future.

Ultimately, by the time children leave Great Finborough Primary School they will have broadened their knowledge, understanding and skills in French whilst developing a deeper interest in learning new languages and exploring the extensive variety of people, places and cultures our world has to offer.