



PRIMARY LANGUAGES POLICY

Review Date: September 2019

“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 (September 2013)

1. Rationale

At Monkshouse Primary School we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills including the key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others. As part of the National Curriculum, all Key Stage 2 pupils must now learn another language in school time. We have chosen to teach French to all children in KS2.

2. Aims and Objectives

We aim to ensure that all children have the opportunity to:

- Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- Speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- Write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studies.

Children will learn to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs;

key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

3. Organisation

Children are taught these specific skills, concepts and vocabulary in weekly French lessons led by a TA who has an expertise in French. A variety of techniques are used to encourage the children to actively engage with the lessons. These include games, role-play and songs. Every contribution is praised to build confidence in the spoken word. Each KS2 classroom has a 'French board' to display the relevant vocabulary that the children are learning.

4. British Values

Primary Languages provides a basis for teaching and learning about other cultures and this is incorporated into many areas of the curriculum including personal and social education, geography, religious education, design and technology, music, art and dance. Although French is the primary language taught at Monkhouse School, we encourage the understanding of other languages and cultures. We hold an 'International Day' every year where each class works on a different country from around the world and run extra foreign language after-school clubs throughout the year (Spanish and Russian). By learning about other cultures, children will be able to identify and explore what British Values are – where we are similar and different to other countries.

5. Inclusion

Primary Languages teaching at Monkhouse School is fully inclusive. No child is excluded by reason of a learning difficulty, or because they have English as an additional language. Experience has indeed shown that such children can derive particular benefit from taking part in Primary Languages 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.

6. Planning and resources

Primary Languages is planned following the guidelines outlined in the National Curriculum 2014. The school follows a scheme of work based around 'La Jolie Ronde' at KS2. This ensures that there is continuity and progression in both skills and content across all classes. Published resources including fiction and non-fiction texts, posters, CDs, DVDs and computer software (Linguascope) are also available for use throughout the school. The resources are added to each year when appropriate. The subject leader for Primary Languages identifies the school's needs and co-ordinates professional development opportunities.

7. Monitoring progress and assessing attainment

Opportunities to monitor the children's progress in Primary Languages are built against each lesson objective. Achievement is measured against whether each individual has met a particular objective. Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. Assessments are based on observation of children working on different oral and written activities.

8. Links outside school

Primary Languages gives us an ideal opportunity for making links outside school. We encourage children to share their experiences of visiting or living in other countries, and, when possible, we welcome visiting speakers who are able to talk about life in the countries where the focus language is spoken. We also make full use of approved sites on the internet, to find out about life in other countries. We have a link to the local secondary school and our Year 6 children visit the school to take part in lessons led by their staff. Each year we hold a French day in which all

children in Key Stage 2 take part, and we hold an 'International Day' in which parents and other community members are also invited to participate.

Signed on behalf of Governors _____ Headteacher

Date: _____