



# Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Policy Reviewed: January 2010  
Subject Leader: Tony Gorton

This policy document should be considered in the light of our School Mission Statement which outlines all that underpins our work at St. Joseph's:

*At St. Joseph's  
we live, love and learn  
by the example of Jesus*

## Rationale

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we teach a foreign language to all children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons.

Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language.

Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

## Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;

- ✚ to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- ✚ to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- ✚ to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- ✚ to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- ✚ to lay the foundations for future study.

### Organisation

French is taught to all children in Key Stage 2 for 45 minutes per week using the *Tout Le Monde* scheme of work

### The Curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ✚ ask and answer questions;
- ✚ use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- ✚ memorise words;
- ✚ interpret meaning;
- ✚ understand basic grammar;
- ✚ use dictionaries;
- ✚ work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- ✚ look at life in another culture.

### Teaching and Learning Style

At St. Joseph's, we base the teaching on the guidance material in the QCA scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language.

We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, (ie: we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games) as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory.

We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

### Assessment

At St. Joseph's, we assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons, and also by regular testing to evaluate what the children have learned. There are no national key stage tests, but we do award the children a school certificate showing that they have reached a certain level of competence in French. We present this to the children at the end of the year. The school uses the four national attainment targets to evaluate the progress of each child in:

- ✚ listening and responding
- ✚ speaking
- ✚ reading and responding
- ✚ writing

### Monitoring and Review

At St. Joseph's, we monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other courses that we teach in the school. The MFL subject Leader also reports to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as in any other subject. The governors have the responsibility of monitoring progression and achievements in French.

The MFL subject leader also liaises with the local secondary schools, so that they are aware of the modern foreign language experience of our children when they move to the next phase of their education.



## Inclusion

All children matter and are given every opportunity to achieve their best. We achieve this by planning which will meet the needs of boys and girls, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, different ethnic groups and diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Review Date: September 2010

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