



French Curriculum



Intent: At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, we believe that learning a language enriches the curriculum and provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for all children. Through the teaching of French, we aim to develop confident communicators who are curious about the wider world and respectful of different cultures and communities.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, our MFL curriculum encourages pupils to recognise the dignity and uniqueness of all people while developing empathy, solidarity and understanding across cultures and languages.

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are given the opportunity to learn French with our specialist teacher, Mrs Adie. Through stories, songs, rhymes, games and practical activities, pupils learn to:

- Listen attentively and respond confidently
- Speak with increasing fluency and accuracy
- Read and understand familiar vocabulary and phrases
- Write using increasingly accurate sentence structures
- Appreciate French culture and traditions
- Develop curiosity and enjoyment in language learning

We aim to create a learning environment where the profile of languages is high and where pupils understand the value of communication, cultural awareness and global citizenship.

Implementation: At St Swithun's, French is delivered through a progressive and engaging curriculum that develops language skills and cultural understanding from EYFS to Year 6. French is taught by a specialist teacher, ensuring consistency, progression and strong subject knowledge throughout the school. Lessons are delivered regularly across all year groups using carefully sequenced long-term plans aligned to the National Curriculum and the Key Stage 2 Programme of Study.

The curriculum develops pupils' skills progressively across the four key areas:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

Children revisit and build upon key vocabulary, grammatical structures and language patterns with increasing complexity over time.

Progression includes:

EYFS Children are introduced to French through:

- Songs, rhymes and stories
- Greetings, colours, numbers and feelings
- Practical games and speaking activities
- Cultural celebrations such as Christmas and Easter in France

KS1 Pupils begin to:

- Ask and answer simple questions
- Use familiar vocabulary and simple sentences
- Explore French stories and rhymes
- Develop confidence through role-play and practical experiences such as French breakfasts and ice-cream stalls



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LKS2 Children deepen understanding through topics such as:

- Family and pets
- Dates and birthdays
- Food and opinions
- Numbers and descriptions

Pupils develop increasing confidence in speaking, reading and writing French.

UKS2 Pupils apply language more independently through topics including:

- Towns and transport
- Sports and hobbies
- Countries, nationalities and languages
- Music and opinions
- Money and larger numbers

Children begin to manipulate language more confidently and accurately in spoken and written forms.

Teaching Approach

French lessons are interactive, engaging and communication-focused, incorporating:

- Stories, songs, rhymes and games
- Speaking and listening activities
- Role-play and paired conversations
- Reading and writing tasks
- Cultural exploration and cross-curricular links

Adaptation and Inclusion

Adaptation is embedded throughout French lessons to ensure all pupils can participate and succeed:

- Use of visual prompts, gestures and modelling
- Scaffolded sentence structures and vocabulary banks
- Songs, repetition and games to support memory and engagement
- Collaborative activities and peer support
- Differentiation for both support and challenge, including native speakers

Our inclusive approach ensures all pupils feel successful and valued as language learners.

Cultural Awareness and Wider Opportunities

Cultural awareness is a central part of the MFL curriculum. They experience:

- French celebrations and traditions
- Stories, music and food linked to French-speaking cultures
- Cross-curricular links with RE, Music, Geography and Maths
- Whole-school events such as International Day
- French breakfasts and practical enrichment activities

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 also have the opportunity to become Language Ambassadors and Leaders, helping to organise events and celebrate the languages and cultures represented within the school community. These opportunities raise the profile of languages across the school and help pupils develop leadership, confidence and global awareness.



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Catholic Social Teaching in French

At St Swithun's, the teaching of French is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Learning another language helps pupils develop solidarity, empathy and respect for people from different cultures and backgrounds. Through exploring French traditions, celebrations and ways of life, children learn to appreciate diversity and recognise the dignity of all people. Collaborative speaking and listening activities promote participation, communication and mutual respect, helping pupils understand the importance of building relationships across communities and cultures. Through whole-school celebrations and leadership opportunities, pupils are encouraged to use their gifts to contribute positively to the school community and wider world.

Impact: By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Develop confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in French
- Use familiar vocabulary and sentence structures accurately
- Demonstrate curiosity and enthusiasm for language learning
- Appreciate different cultures, traditions and perspectives
- Understand the value of communication and global citizenship
- Show increasing independence and resilience as learners

Pupils leave St Swithun's as confident, respectful and culturally aware learners who are well prepared to continue language learning at secondary school and beyond.

"To have another language is to possess a second soul."
Charlemagne