

St. John's Church of England VA Primary School



Primary Languages: French Policy

Head Teacher	<i>N. Pallister</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>A. Harris</i>
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Shining Bright Together As One Family

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1. St. John's Christian Vision and Values

We have high aspirations and expectations for all our pupils, aiming to provide a safe and secure environment in which everyone can flourish and grow as God's children. Working together with parents and carers, we are building strong relationships, enabling us to 'Shine Bright Together as One Family.'

This reflects our Christian vision and associated values, where every member of our school community – pupils, parents, staff and governors – has a role to play in ensuring every person thrives. Our vision is based on the words of Jesus written in Matthew chapter 5 verse 16:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

The desire at St. John's is for every person to shine their own light brightly, whether it be through academic ability, sport, music, art or personal interest outside of school. Everyone is important and special: a unique masterpiece in the eyes of God.

We also feel it is important that we are never truly alone. At St. John's, we stand together with each other, supporting and helping, celebrating and comforting. We are one school, church and community family, doing life together.

The four core Christian values which are particularly important in the life of our school are:

- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Respect
- Perseverance

2. Rationale

At St. John's, we believe that learning a foreign language provides children with an opening to other cultures, fosters curiosity about the wider world, and deepens their understanding of global diversity. Through learning French, our pupils develop the foundations for future language study, gain confidence in communication, and build intercultural awareness that supports our Christian vision: *'Shining Bright Together as One Family'* based on the words of Jesus, *"Let your light shine before others"* (Matthew 5:16). Pupils' God-given talents help them engage confidently with the wider world.

The strategic leadership decision was made to follow *Language Angels* online programme for our French teaching. This is to help reduce staff workload and improve staff mental health and wellbeing.

3. Aims

Through the teaching of French, we aim for all pupils to:

- develop an interest in learning another language
- understand and respond to spoken and written French
- speak with increasing confidence and accuracy
- write simple sentences and phrases from memory
- gain an appreciation of French culture and traditions
- lay the foundations for future language learning at Key Stage 3.

4. Curriculum Organisation

- **Scheme of Work:** St. John's C of E Primary School uses the Language Angels online scheme for teaching French in Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6).
- **Coverage:** Each year group follows progressive units that develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- **Lesson Frequency:** French is taught weekly for approximately 30–45 minutes.
- **Progression:**
 - *Year 3–4 (Early/Intermediate Language units):* basic vocabulary, greetings, colours, numbers, classroom language.
 - *Year 5–6 (Intermediate/Progressive units):* sentence structure, opinions, verbs, and extended writing.
- **Cultural links:** Opportunities are taken to celebrate French festivals, songs, and traditions.
- **Staffing:** Our supply teacher teaches French in Year 3; Subject lead teaches French in Year 4 and Year 5; Year 6 class teacher teaches French.

5. Teaching and Learning

- Lessons are interactive, engaging, and supported by *Language Angels* online resources, including songs, games, PowerPoints, and audio recordings by native speakers.
- Teachers model correct pronunciation and encourage repetition, pair work, and simple role play.
- ICT and visual materials enhance learning and cater to different learning styles.
- Activities are inclusive and differentiated to ensure all pupils can access the curriculum.

6. Assessment and Progress

- Teachers use *Language Angels* assessment tools to track progress in the four key skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Assessment is formative (through observation and oral responses) and summative (via end-of-unit tasks).
- Pupil progress is recorded using the scheme's online tracking grids.
- Achievement and effort in French are celebrated in class and through displays.

7. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At St. John's, we are committed to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality language learning. We believe that learning French should be a positive and inclusive experience that builds confidence and celebrates diversity.

- All pupils, regardless of ability, background, or need, are encouraged to participate fully in French lessons.
- Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including those with SEND, EAL, or additional needs.
- Teachers use a variety of approaches – visual prompts, repetition, modelling, songs, and actions – to make learning accessible and enjoyable.
- Tasks are differentiated so that every pupil can experience success and develop their language skills at an appropriate level.
- Collaboration and pair work are encouraged, allowing children to support one another and learn through shared experience.
- Achievement and effort in French are celebrated, helping to build self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

Our inclusive approach reflects our Christian vision 'Shining Bright Together as One Family' by valuing each individual's contribution and ensuring all children can flourish in language learning.

8. Spirituality through Primary Languages

At St. John's, we believe that through the study of languages, we can nurture the spiritual development of our children by valuing and embracing other languages and cultures. The study of a foreign language encourages developing a sense of curiosity and empathy as well as the breaking down of barriers through the power of communication. Studying languages gives children the opportunity to consider 'identity' and what it means to them and others. Children explore emotions through language, reflect on different uses of language and they are often given the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity in groups and paired work. Learning French promotes self-esteem by developing pupils' confidence. As part of lessons, pupils are encouraged to try new things, including performing in front of their peers which promotes appreciation and support and work as part of a team.

9. Monitoring and review

The subject leader monitors the subject regularly. The lead then reports to governors on progress in French teaching termly as well as meeting with the link governor for French.

The policy for French is to be reviewed every three years.