

French at Thrupp Primary School

Intent

At Thrupp Primary School, we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for children of all ages. Pupils develop communication skills, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between their own and other languages.

The language that we have chosen to study at Thrupp in Key Stage Two is French.

Learning another language celebrates the multilingual and multicultural world and provides an international perspective in children's learning, giving them insight into their own culture and those of others. It provides the additional advantage of developing literacy, including speaking and listening in an inclusive way as well as providing a platform for primary-secondary collaboration.

Primary Languages teaching in our school is fully inclusive. No child should be 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 in terms of self-esteem, from taking part in Primary Languages learning activities in which they may well be less disadvantaged than in other areas of the curriculum.

Implementation

At Thrupp Primary School, the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) curriculum is designed to provide pupils with a valuable educational, social, and cultural experience through the study of French. The program progresses from foundational skills in Lower Key Stage 2 to more advanced, practical applications in Year 6, ensuring a coherent and inclusive learning journey. Lessons are interactive and engaging, using songs, games, role-playing, and real-world tasks to build confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Pupils begin with simple conversational skills such as greetings, numbers, and colours, progressing to expressing preferences, describing weather, telling the time, and planning holidays.

Cultural understanding is embedded throughout, with topics such as French festivals (Fête des Rois, Bastille Day, Fête de la Musique), traditions (Christmas, Easter), and geography (French regions and holiday destinations). Practical experiences, such as a French breakfast café and weather forecasting, encourage pupils to use their language skills in authentic contexts. Inclusivity is at the heart of our approach, with all children actively participating, including those with learning difficulties or English as an additional language, to foster self-esteem and a sense of achievement.

Impact

The MFL curriculum at Thrupp Primary School ensures pupils develop essential communication skills, laying a strong foundation for future language learning. By engaging with French culture and traditions, pupils gain a global perspective, enhancing their empathy and appreciation for diversity. Through structured progression, they achieve clear milestones, such as introducing themselves, expressing preferences, and describing holidays, which instill confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

The inclusive and cross-curricular approach enriches pupils' broader educational experience, linking literacy, numeracy, and geography with language learning. By Year 6, students are well-prepared for the challenges of secondary education, equipped with practical language skills and a deep appreciation for the multicultural world. This approach not only supports academic success but also nurtures pupils as informed, confident, and culturally aware global citizens.