

Whitehill Junior School Modern Foreign Languages (French) Curriculum Overview and information 2020

Knowing of the importance and the effects of early language teaching and learning, this has been a significant part of life at Whitehill Junior School for a long time. In order to prepare pupils for their future within an ever-changing global community, we aim to equip them with the necessary, transferable skills to learn foreign languages.

French is being taught from Year 3 to Year 6, mainly following the Euro Stars Resource (from Rising Stars UK Ltd., part of Hodder Education). Pupils are being taught weekly by French specialist Madame Skinner, formally a full time French Teacher at our local secondary school, Hitchin Girls' School. Pupils have the opportunity to use the French skills they acquired during the annual school journey to France and a visit to Café Rouge, where they order in French from the menu. We also aim to prepare pupils for a flying start to French in Year 7 when they start their secondary education.

In addition to weekly Modern Foreign Language lessons, incidental language builds an element of daily class teaching, for example through classroom instructions being given in other languages but English. Depending on the teachers' skills and expertise, pupils will be exposed to additional languages, such as Spanish. Also, pupils have ample opportunities to use languages and to learn about other cultures through linking with other schools, also on an international level.

In receiving the Full International School Award Accreditation, Whitehill has been recognised for its outstanding international work.

The national curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

- 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
- can 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 studied.



Overview of the Content Covered

We now use the New Primary French course, Euro Stars. There are four stages and we cover Stage 1 in Year 3, Stage 2 in Year 4, Stage 3 in Year 5 and Stage 4 in Year 6. Topics covered are as follows:

Stage 1 (Year 3)	Stage 2 (Year 4)	Stage 3 (Year 5)	Stage 4 (Year 6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All About Me• Games and Songs• Celebrations• Portraits• The Four Friends (Animals)• Growing Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Aboard! (Transport)• Pocket Money• Tell Me a Story• Our Sporting Lives• The Carnival of the Animals• What's the Weather Like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Eating• I am the Music Man• On the Way to School• Beach Scene• The Return of Spring• The Planets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our School• The World Around Us• Then and Now• Out and About• Setting up a Café• What's in the News?

The interactive whiteboard is used to present animations, photo stories, flashcards and activities and there are activity sheets in each unit. The objectives of each unit of the course cover listening, speaking, reading and writing. Pupils also develop an awareness of French grammar and there are opportunities within each unit to reinforce learning in other subjects.

Each class has a 30 minute lesson every Friday. The pupils learn well and also fun. Their enthusiasm is heart-warming! The class teachers are supportive both in the lesson and in the time in between. By the end of Year 6, pupils have an excellent foundation in French. It is encouraging to hear of the success of former Whitehill pupils who have gone on to do well in French at secondary school and also continue to enjoy the subject.