



Foreign Languages Intent

Rationale

Our foreign languages curriculum at Lionheart Primary Trust is taught primarily using the 'iLanguage' teaching materials. This scheme follows the National Curriculum and its key aims which include:

- understanding and responding to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources;
- speaking 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;
- writing at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt;
- discovering and developing an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

The scheme is designed to instil confidence and enthusiasm for learning new languages and to develop the pupils' curiosity and understanding of the world. We aim to encourage children to see the relevance of learning a new language by focusing on conversational aspects. The program's resources include native French speakers which ensures accurate pronunciation and demonstrates the diversity of the French culture.

The languages curriculum is taught discretely in years 3 – 6. The teaching provides an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and enables pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing. It focuses on practical communication through familiar and routine matters, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary. Teachers make French lessons inclusive by providing adaptations for all groups of learners to achieve the same objectives. This is achieved in multiple ways such as scaffolding, stem sentences, paired work and knowledge organisers.

Teaching focuses primarily on oral and listening skills. Great emphasis is placed on the need for constant repetition and revision in order to consolidate and secure knowledge in the pupils' long-term memory. Spaced practice and retrieval techniques are essential for effective language learning. Emphasis is also placed on inference, vocabulary and decoding skills. Learning a language at primary level needs to be relevant, stimulating and fun in order to foster a real enthusiasm to learn. Cross curricular links further support this e.g. through music, dance, art, geography and themed days.

While the children practise and refine a range of linguistic skills, they also learn essential life skills, such as being curious, encouraging and motivated (character education and the 6Rs).

By the end of the primary journey, the ultimate aim is for children to see the benefits and importance of learning languages and to give them a solid base and interest for taking their language learning further. This will enable children to flourish in a rich learning environment, explore their own cultural identities and those of others. This will hopefully lead to global aspirations and the desire to travel or work in other countries.