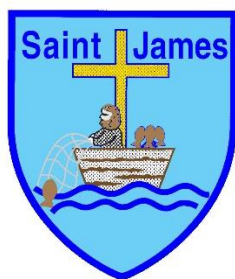


# Altham St. James' CE Primary School

## Foreign Languages Policy



***Living our lives as Jesus wants us to***

***John 15:12 Love each other as I have loved you***

### Rationale

Since 2014 it has been a statutory requirement to teach a modern foreign language at Key Stage 2. From improving literacy skills, to developing self-esteem and widening cultural awareness, introducing a language at an early age has many benefits.

At Altham St. James' we teach a modern foreign language to **all** the children through school (including EYFS and KS1) for several reasons:

- The learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for pupils.
- There is good evidence that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language is acquired and the learning becomes deeper and longer lasting.
- It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other languages later in life.
- The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

From January 2025 French is taught throughout school.

## **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in Altham St. James' are:

- To foster an interest in learning other languages.
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun.
- To make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another.
- To help children develop their awareness and interest of cultural differences in other countries.
- To develop confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in another language.
- To lay the foundations for future study.

## **Organisation**

We teach French to children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for approximately 30 minutes a week. This can be arranged in one session per week, over several short sessions during the week or blocked into longer periods of time. In EYFS and KS1, children are introduced to French through short sessions over the school year.

## **The Curriculum**

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the National Curriculum Programme of Study for KS2 and we use Early Start languages 1 and 2 and Espresso to support teaching. (See attached Curriculum Map.)

Pupils should be taught to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

### **Methodology Guidelines:**

- Lessons may include games, songs, drama, storytelling, role-play and active participation to encourage active use and enjoyment of the language.
- The main emphasis should be on speaking and listening. Reading and writing should be included with greater frequency as the children advance through KS2.
- Where appropriate and practicable, teachers use the foreign language during the normal school day e.g. greetings, days, dates, the weather, praise etc. Repetition is valuable.
- Teachers may choose to relate the foreign language to other areas of the curriculum where there is a natural link.

We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

### **Inclusion**

At our school we teach a foreign language to **all** children, whatever their ability. A foreign language forms part of the school curriculum to provide a broad and balanced education to all children.

Through our foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning a modern foreign language.

### **Assessment**

We informally assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject.

In Key Stage 2 we use individual self-assessment as part of the Early Start programme, and keep a record of Key Skills in a class Big Book.

**November 2024**