



Cleves School  
Learning Together

# FRENCH LANGUAGE

## RATIONALE:

French, as a language, is essentially a form of communication. In an increasingly international society and with the breaking down of barriers within the European community, we consider it important that children should from an early age learn to speak a foreign language with confidence. In addition, through active participation in

creative tasks, we encourage pupils to listen with understanding and to read and interpret simple informative messages. We aim to promote an interest in and understanding of French culture.

**AIMS:**

1. To promote an enthusiasm for foreign language learning and a willingness to 'have a go'.
2. To provide children with the basic vocabulary to converse confidently in French on a range of topics relevant to their age and interests so that they may understand and be understood by French people.
3. To foster an interest in and understanding of French life and culture, and to recognise the similarities to and differences from our own.
4. To help children to recognise other languages as tools of communication rather than as 'lessons' to be coped with.
5. To enable children to understand basic information presented orally or in simple text.
6. To develop specific cross-curricular learning skills such as the ability to:
  - a) co-operate within a group
  - b) listen and discriminate aurally
  - c) learn by rote
  - d) retrieve information independently from sources such as books, brochures
  - e) copy words accurately
  - f) respond to contextual clues in attributing meaning to unknown words
  - g) match sound to text
  - h) recognise patterns and structures in language
  - i) carry out instructions

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

**NATIONAL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS:**

There is no national Curriculum requirement to teach a foreign language at Key Stage 2.

We believe that it is better for children to start learning a foreign language at an early stage because:

- a) they are more receptive to new ideas and develop a positive attitude to other cultures
- b) it helps to develop linguistic patterns, and therefore enriches understanding of the child's mother tongue

#### STAFFING AND ORGANISATION:

Mrs Pengilly will co-ordinate French teaching throughout the school. Year 3 will have one lesson per week of twenty minutes in the French Room, in half class groups. Year 4 will be taught in half class groups for 2 sessions of twenty minutes each per week in the French area. They will be taught by Mrs Pengilly.

Year 5 will be taught in whole class groups for two sessions of thirty minutes in their own classrooms. Mrs Pengilly will teach all year 5 classes and Mrs Driver will teach all Year 6 classes; each year 6 class will have approx 8 hours tuition per term.

Liaison between those teachers will take place.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Just as children acquire their own language, a number of separate words will be learned initially, and these gradually built into a variety of simple phrases. All vocabulary learned will be revised and reinforced by regular repetition and a range of strategies evolved to prevent this becoming tedious.

It is vital that the foreign language lesson is active and lively and that all children have the opportunity to participate.

Opportunities exist for a variety of teaching styles and approaches, including whole class, small group and paired activities.

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

Whenever possible, the language lesson is conducted in the target language.

Captions and labels on classroom displays will give early reading experience, but writing should not be introduced until Year 5 and then will consist mainly of copying or adapting captions and simple combinations of words used in creative activities.

If children are to accept the validity of French as a means of communication, then it must be used transitionally within the classroom. A list of suggested phrases is in the County Guidelines so that all teachers may employ a common vocabulary. Class teachers are encouraged to integrate French into Class routines where possible e.g. calling the register. Throughout the school, appropriate signs will be written in French.

It is desirable that children should be exposed as often as possible to native French speakers. Opportunities may occur to make use of parents, au pairs and even 'assistants' from our feeder secondary schools.

#### LINK WITH A SCHOOL ABROAD:

We have an established link with Ecole Multilingue in Lyon. Several children have already made return visits to their guest, and with encouragement, more families could probably be encouraged to participate in the scheme.

Although the purpose of the French children visiting England is to speak English, they are usually willing to help our children with their French.

We are in the process of setting up an E. Mail link with the same school.

#### SPECIAL NEEDS:

All children have the right of access to foreign language teaching. Because of the essentially oral approach in the first two years, children with learning difficulties often achieve relatively well.

Children from bi-lingual homes can be challenged by offering simple reading and writing tasks and may borrow French books from the French Department.

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

#### DIFFERENTIATION:

In oral lessons, the teacher can vary the level of questions asked of individual children. When writing, work can be devised to cater for different levels of ability, with open-ended tasks for the more able. More able children may respond to questions by recalling vocabulary and structures, while less able children may need to hear a correct response before replying.

#### ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING OF PROGRESS:

It is recommended that the teacher constantly assess each child, e.g. a simple dialogue; carrying out instructions; simple written tests. Assessment will be used to inform short term planning and to help pupils needs. Assessment comments and grades will be recorded in the teacher's record book.

#### RESOURCES

La Jolie Ronde was introduced in September 2001. This active learning course uses audio –tapes, flashcards and workbooks. We also have a book; cassette, CD Rom, Video and game supply to complement the course.

#### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are asked to help their children whenever possible in learning vocabulary by practising at home. A very basic level of understanding is needed for this – and some parents might enjoy learning with their children.

#### I.T

There are opportunities for using I.T in language teaching. We have a CD Rom French programme which is available for older pupils.

#### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A 3-day residential visit to the Opal Coast is offered to Year 6 children in the Summer Term to enable them to use the language they have learnt over the years and to raise awareness of French culture and life-style.

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

**CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**FRENCH LANGUAGE**

#### EVALUATION

It will be necessary to evaluate and update this policy annually in the light of the availability of staff to teach the subject. Other languages could possibly be introduced as an alternative if teachers joining or presently on the staff possessed the necessary skills.

Written :  
Reviewed :November 2002

