

French Department Curriculum Provision

At Penkrigde Middle School we firmly believe that learning a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures. We aim to foster children's curiosity and to improve their understanding of the global community, by teaching them about the cultures of various French speaking countries around the world.

It is widely acknowledged that studying a foreign language improves children's literacy in their own language. Therefore, the examination and exploration of the similarities and differences between French and English, in terms of vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation, form an integral part of our French teaching.

In both Key Stage 2 and 3 the priority is to enable pupils to use French creatively and spontaneously to express what they want to say. This includes the use of language in formal situations but, equally, when communicating with each other informally. Therefore we promote and encourage the use of French by teachers and pupils alike as much as possible in lessons.

As a department we provide a varied range of activities, which cultivate an interactive approach to learning a language and include opportunities to utilise the language for real purposes. Our teaching includes a variety of activities which appeal to a range of learning styles. These include role-play, dialogues, group talk, mime, pair work, videos, group work, surveys, ICT, games and songs.

In Key Stage 2 we focus on practical communication and provide a balance of spoken and written language. Pupils explore the patterns and sounds in the language and develop an appreciation of stories, songs, poems and rhymes in French. Pupils will acquire an understanding of basic grammar and key features of the language, which enables them to build sentences. Language learning in Key Stage 2 lays a firm foundation for the development of more complex skills in Key Stage 3.

In Key Stage 3 our aim is to build on the foundations laid in Key Stage 2 to develop pupils' competence in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, our teaching enables pupils to extend their vocabulary and to use and manipulate key grammatical structures in French, including different tenses.

There is also a very successful annual Y8 visit to northern France for Year 8 children. This has proved to be an invaluable opportunity for the children to experience French culture at first hand and to practise their French in real situations with French people. A Spanish Club is currently offered weekly after school.

We have strong links with the first schools, fellow middle school and the high school in the Wolgarston Collaboration to ensure a well-planned curriculum which ensures progression and enables pupils to proceed and succeed in the next stage of their education.

The following topics are a medium for developing the above

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 5	Bon appétit French food sampling, opinions, likes & dislikes.	Au Café Ordering drinks and snacks. Café role plays. Noël Similarities and	La fête des Rois Epiphany, cake-making Le Temps Presenting a weather	En Ville 1 The town, its shops and buildings. Designing and describing a	En ville 2 Asking the way, giving directions, role-play	La Vie Sportive Talking about games and sports we play.

		differences. Understanding and adapting a Christmas Story.	forecast. Mardi Gras Carnaval Crêpe-making Pâques Easter	village or town.		
Year 6	La Chasse à L'ours Appreciation of a French story. Development of reading skills. Les Dates et les Fêtes Dates and French festivals	Les Dates et les Fêtes (cont'd) Poetry Creativity with adjectives and nouns. Focus on key French sounds.	La Chenille Affamée Reading, adapting and creating own version of an animal story.	Les Vêtements Two songs about clothing.	La Santé Parts of the body, role-play describing ailments. Descriptions of people and animals.	C'est où? Countries and nationalities, talking about where we live, describing places and where they are.
Year 7	Mon petit monde All about ourselves and others. Detailed descriptions of families and friends.	Potion Magique Poetry inspired creative language to add detail and expand descriptions.	Au Collège (Part 1) Comparative study of school life in the UK and French speaking countries.	Au Collège (Part 2) Developing complex and compound sentences in writing and speaking. Spoken presentation describing a day at school.	Mon Temps Libre (Part 1) Use of leisure time. Focus on present tense of regular verbs.	Mon Temps Libre (Part 2) Asking key questions about leisure activities. Introducing future tense.
Year 8	Joyeux Noël Studying a film and a newspaper article about the	Masterchef Mealtimes, studying authentic recipes.	Histoires de Vie Using French poems and a murder mystery	En Vacances Holiday planning - future and past tense exploration	En Vacances (cont'd) Dans le Coin	Dans le Coin (cont'd) Developing complex verb

	<p>Christmas Truce in 1914 as a medium to introduce past participles of regular verbs. Developing techniques to understand complex texts.</p>	<p>Presentation of a recipe & an account of the process of making the dish.</p>	<p>to develop use of the past tense.</p>		<p>A tourist approach to our local environment.</p>	<p>constructions to say what activities you can and would like to do in the local area.</p>
<p>Study visits</p>					<p>Y8 - a 5 day language and cultural study visit to France</p>	