Modern Foreign Languages

What We Teach in M.F.L:

Our French curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that children progressively develop knowledge, skills and understanding over time.

Substantive Knowledge

- Listening carefully to spoken French and responding appropriately.
- Speaking with increasing confidence using accurate pronunciation and intonation.
- Reading and understanding a variety of words, phrases and simple sentences in French.
- Writing words, phrases and increasingly complex sentences from memory.
- Learning key grammatical concepts, including nouns, articles, adjectives, verbs, sentence structure and word order.
- Acquiring a wide range of vocabulary linked to familiar themes such as family, animals, food, weather, school and hobbies.
- Developing accurate pronunciation through the teaching of French phonics, sound patterns and intonation.

Disciplinary Knowledge

- Understanding how languages are structured and organised.
- Identifying patterns and links between French and English.
- Applying vocabulary and grammatical knowledge to communicate ideas independently.
- Using language-learning strategies such as retrieval, repetition, pattern recognition and recall to support long-term learning.
- Developing confidence to communicate, make mistakes, self-correct and improve.

Cultural Understanding

- Developing an understanding of French culture, traditions and daily life.
- Comparing aspects of French life with life in Britain.
- Appreciating cultural diversity and developing respect for different languages, cultures and communities.

Vocabulary Development

- Using and understanding technical language such as noun, article, adjective, verb, pronunciation, masculine and feminine.
- Progressively extending topic-specific and conversational vocabulary so that pupils can communicate with increasing accuracy and confidence.

How We Teach M.F.L.:

At Bocking Primary School, French is taught through engaging, inclusive and carefully sequenced lessons. The Language Angels scheme provides a structured progression of knowledge and skills that builds systematically from Year 3 to Year 6. Lessons are designed to revisit prior learning, strengthen memory and support pupils in transferring previously learnt language to new contexts.

- Through a carefully sequenced curriculum that develops listening, speaking, reading and writing skills progressively over time.
- By introducing new vocabulary in meaningful contexts and revisiting it regularly through retrieval practice to support long-term retention.

- Through songs, stories, games, speaking activities and interactive tasks that make language learning memorable and enjoyable.
- By explicitly teaching French phonics, pronunciation and sound-symbol relationships to support accurate speaking, listening and reading.
- Using modelled language, repetition and guided practice to build confidence, fluency and accuracy.
- Through regular opportunities for children to communicate orally, rehearse language and apply vocabulary in different contexts.
- Using retrieval activities, questioning and formative assessment to identify misconceptions and adapt teaching to pupils' needs.
- Embedding key vocabulary and grammatical structures throughout each unit so that knowledge becomes increasingly secure.
- Providing scaffolds, visual aids, modelled language and vocabulary support to ensure all pupils can access the curriculum and experience success.
- Adapting learning appropriately for pupils with SEND so that all children can participate meaningfully and make progress from their starting points.

What Our Children Have Learnt in M.F.L.:

By the end of primary school, our children have developed a secure foundation in French and are well prepared for further language learning at secondary school. They have acquired a growing bank of vocabulary, grammatical understanding and communication skills which enable them to use French with increasing confidence and independence.

- They can understand and respond to spoken and written French using an increasingly wide range of vocabulary and sentence structures.
- They speak with growing confidence, applying accurate pronunciation and intonation when communicating in French.
- They can read and write simple and increasingly complex sentences, drawing upon previously taught vocabulary and grammar.
- They understand key grammatical structures and recognise patterns within the French language.
- They can recall and apply learning from previous units, demonstrating secure knowledge over time.
- They recognise similarities and differences between languages and use these connections to support further language learning.
- They demonstrate curiosity, resilience and confidence when communicating in an unfamiliar language.
- They have developed an appreciation of French culture and a broader understanding of the diversity of the world around them.

Children demonstrate their learning through speaking, listening, reading and writing activities, as well as ongoing teacher assessment. Their work shows progression in vocabulary knowledge, grammatical understanding, pronunciation and confidence. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND and those who may be disadvantaged, achieve well and experience success in language learning. Ultimately, our pupils leave Bocking as confident, enthusiastic learners who are ready to continue their language-learning journey and engage positively with the wider world.