

# **Thomas Harding Junior School**



**MFL Policy 2021 - 23**

# **THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES POLICY**

### **The importance of learning languages:**

*'Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.'* (National Curriculum 2014)

### **Rationale:**

This policy has been written considering the Programmes of Study as required by the 2014 National Curriculum.

At Thomas Harding, we believe that learning a foreign language at KS2 provides a challenging but rewarding educational experience for children, enabling them not only to have the opportunity to communicate in a language, other than English, but to also have a deeper understanding of the many different cultures within our society. Furthermore the many cross-curricular links afforded by learning another language help develop and reinforce children's knowledge, skills and understanding in the wider curriculum.

French is our chosen foreign language as it is taught in the secondary schools our children move on to in the next phase of their education, thus giving them the opportunity to continue their study.

### **Aims:**

#### **At Thomas Harding, our aims for teaching French are to:**

- \* introduce children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun, promoting a positive attitude towards language learning
- \* give children an increased understanding of the nature and structure of language in general and provide them with a secure foundation for future language learning
- \* enable children to use their knowledge of the foreign language with growing confidence, both to understand what they hear and read, and to express themselves in speech and writing, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary
- \* develop literacy skills which consequently support the teaching of English
- \* help children explore their own identities and develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries

**Teaching Strategies:**

At Thomas Harding, French is usually taught throughout the school in 30-minute sessions, although the structure of the lessons is flexible. We follow the Buckinghamshire Scheme of Work and use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our lessons, enabling all children to actively engage and participate. Wherever possible, lessons are conducted in the target language and attention is given to maintaining a lively pace, using varied activities and resources so that children may find enjoyment in the learning of French. Techniques include the use of songs, rhymes, games and role play which all involve both the repetition of previously taught language and continuous building of new language structures and vocabulary. ICT plays an integral part in our teaching, using interactive and online activities. These provide access to native speakers speaking so that the children can hear the language spoken correctly.

**Assessment:**

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other foundation subjects that we teach in the school. We assess children's progress formatively to ensure they are making progress. This assessment is carried out informally during the lessons to evaluate what the children are learning and to inform future teaching.

Assessment for learning is also embedded in lessons taught, for example identifying the learning objective and success criteria

**Resources:**

The resources needed for French are stored in a cupboard in the Year 4 wet bay. Resources available include books, song books with CDs, CD ROMs, games and a puppet. The complete Buckinghamshire Scheme of Work, including lesson plans and resources, can be found on the Staff Area of the school's network.

**Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:**

A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. At Thomas Harding, we are committed to the principle that learning another language is appropriate for every child, whatever their ability. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language (EAL), and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this, by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. All children will have access to relevant activities and resources linked to the scheme of work.

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