ABBEY MEAD
PRIMARY ACADEMY

French policy 2026-2027

Updated September 2026

1. National Curriculum Summary

The National Curriculum requires schools to teach a foreign language in Key Stage Two, although teaching may be of any modern or ancient foreign language. To allow pupils to make substantial progress in one language, Abbey Mead have chosen to focus on the teaching of French across Years 3 to 6.

The National Curriculum aims are that, by the end of Key Stage Two, children can:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied

2. Our Intent at Abbey

The teaching of a Modern Foreign Language at Abbey is fundamental to instilling in our children a shared love and appreciation of language. 98% of our children speak English as an Additional Language and have varying fluency in home languages. Following disruptions to our practice resultant of COVID-19 and a trial of the teaching of Mandarin in 2019, we relaunched the teaching of French across our junior classes in 2021-22. Our ambition is for all children to become competent in conversational and written French by the time they leave Abbey Mead starting with building the foundations of this language.

Abbey Mead has chosen to follow the Primary Languages Network scheme. We have in place a progressive programme that ensures children are covering the skills required by the National Curriculum whilst offering the freedom to stretch pupils readily. Each year, children will be able to build on skills and vocabulary learnt in previous years, providing them with a foundation that will equip them for further language studies.

Lessons will deepen children's curiosity and their understanding of the world, expanding their horizons to other countries, cultures, and people. This is especially important for our children at Abbey as many children experience a narrow world view outside of school. Lessons will also provide opportunities to interact and communicate with others both in speech and in writing.

Initially, children will acquire basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing their speaking and listening skills. These will be embedded and further developed in future

years in Upper KS2, alongside reading and writing, gradually progressing onto more complex language concepts and greater learner autonomy.

Implementation

2.1. Planning

Lessons are sequenced so that prior learning is considered and opportunities for revision of language and grammar are built in. The introduction and revision of key vocabulary and grammatical structures is built into each lesson

Lesson resources include video files to support staff who are less confident with French pronunciation.

Stage 1 units:

- Getting started
- Calendar and celebrations
- Animals I like and don't like
- Carnival Time
- Fruits and vegetables
- Going on a picnic

Stage 2 units:

- Welcome to school, super learners
- My local area, your local area
- Family tree and faces
- Face and body parts
- Feeling unwell, jungle animals
- The weather

Stage 3 units

- Talking about us
- Time in the city
- Healthy eating and going to the market
- Clothes, colours and fancy dress
- Out of this world
- Going to the seaside.

Stage 4 units

- This is me
- Homes and houses
- Playing and enjoying sports
- Funfair and favourites

2.2. Delivery

French is taught in Years 3-6, for at least 30 minutes per week (or equivalent). Lessons include a range of activities, so children are reading, listening to, speaking, and writing new words. Songs and games are used to reinforce new vocabulary and encourage an active engagement in French learning. Teachers reinforce vocabulary regularly throughout the lesson to ensure pronunciation is accurate.

2.3. Home games

Primary languages network (the scheme that we follow) provide games for the children to play to practise their learning each week. These are provided on Learning Links for the children to complete at home. The aim of this is two-fold; to help children retrieve new learning and embed it in long-term memory and also to raise the profile of French teaching within the school and wider community.

2.4. Launch Day

To encourage a love of learning for the language, children in Year 3 start their French journey with a launch day. They have the chance to try some French foods and learn more about France, through a range of practical activities.

2.5. Links with Secondary school

We will continue to strengthen our links with local secondary schools to expand French enrichment opportunities for our pupils. Year 6 pupils will have opportunities to visit schools such as Rushey Mead Academy for French taster workshops, where older students will lead a range of fun and engaging language activities. These experiences will help to build pupils' confidence, develop their French skills and provide an exciting insight into language learning at secondary school.

3. Resources

There are many resources available on the Internet to support the teaching of French. Parents may wish to look at the following websites:

Stories - https://www.thefablecottage.com/french

Games - https://www.french-games.net/frenchgames

BBC Bitesize - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty

Links to French cartoons - https://bilingualkidspot.com/2019/07/01/french-cartoons-for-kids/

Colours song - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZR66TjjrDc

Numbers song - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsc3qLMaCu8