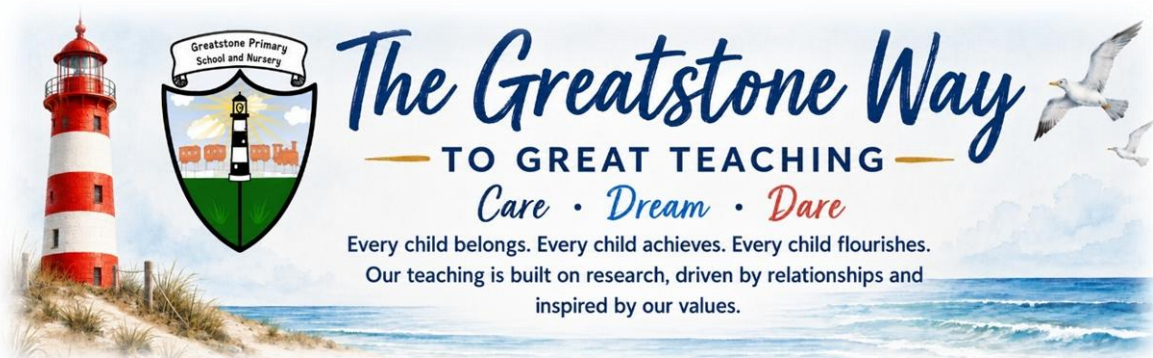




Modern Foreign Languages (French): The Greatstone Way

Curriculum Intent

At Greatstone Primary School, we believe that learning another language opens the door to the wider world. Through French, pupils develop curiosity, confidence and cultural understanding whilst becoming increasingly effective communicators. Learning a language enables children to appreciate diversity, understand different cultures and recognise the value of communication beyond their own community.

Our French curriculum has been designed using the progression principles of the **Language Angels Scheme of Work**, carefully adapted to reflect **The Greatstone Way** and the needs of our pupils. Learning is carefully sequenced from Nursery to Year 6 so that children continually revisit and extend vocabulary, phonics, grammar and communication skills.

Rather than learning isolated words or phrases, pupils develop the confidence to understand, manipulate and apply language in increasingly independent ways.

French contributes to our vision of enabling every child to **Care, Dream and Dare**.

Through **Care**, pupils learn to appreciate different cultures, traditions and perspectives, developing respect for others and understanding of the wider world.

Through **Dream**, pupils recognise that learning languages creates opportunities for future travel, friendships, careers and global citizenship.

Through **Dare**, pupils develop confidence to speak aloud, take risks, make mistakes and persevere as language learners.

Our curriculum develops pupils' ability to:

- understand spoken French with increasing confidence;
- communicate clearly using familiar vocabulary and sentence structures;
- read and understand increasingly complex texts;
- write accurately for a range of purposes;
- understand how languages work through phonics and grammar;
- appreciate the culture, traditions and diversity of France and the wider Francophone world.

French is taught through engaging, interactive lessons that prioritise communication, retrieval practice, songs, games, stories and purposeful conversation. Throughout Key Stage Two, pupils build secure foundations in vocabulary and grammar whilst developing the confidence to manipulate language independently.

Although formal language learning begins in Key Stage Two, children in Nursery and Reception develop early language awareness through songs, greetings, stories and cultural experiences, ensuring a seamless transition into the National Curriculum.

French Knowledge Progression (Nursery–Year 6)

Year Group	Core Knowledge	Key Vocabulary
Nursery	Begin to recognise that people speak different languages. Join in with simple French songs, rhymes and greetings. Develop awareness that words can sound different whilst having the same meaning.	Bonjour, Au revoir, Merci, Oui, Non, S'il vous plaît, Rouge, Bleu, Jaune, Vert, Un–Cinq

Reception	Understand that French is spoken in France and other countries. Recognise familiar greetings, numbers, colours and simple classroom language. Begin introducing themselves.	Bonjour, Salut, Je m'appelle..., Ça va ?, Merci, Numbers 1–10, Colours, Chat, Chien, Soleil, Pluie
Year 3	Learn greetings, introductions, numbers, colours and classroom language. Begin understanding simple sentence structure, masculine and feminine nouns and basic phonics. Develop confidence in listening and speaking.	Greetings, Numbers to 20, Days, Months, Colours, Classroom Instructions, Family, Animals, Opinions
Year 4	Extend vocabulary across familiar topics. Understand how adjectives describe nouns. Build simple conversations and read and write short sentences independently. Recognise similarities and differences between French and English grammar.	Family, Food, Home, School, Playtime, Weather, Clothes, Town, Opinions, Transport
Year 5	Develop fluency using familiar vocabulary in different contexts. Understand present tense verbs, conjunctions and negatives. Construct longer spoken and written sentences with increasing accuracy.	Holidays, Hobbies, Body, Sport, Café, Shopping, Directions, Health, School Life, Town
Year 6	Manipulate language independently using previously learned vocabulary. Apply grammar confidently to produce extended speaking and writing. Develop cultural understanding of France and the Francophone world.	Environment, Travel, Future Plans, Jobs, Healthy Lifestyle, Secondary School, Countries, Festivals, Weather, Global Citizenship

French Skills Progression

Strand	Nursery	Reception	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Listening	Listen to songs and rhymes.	Respond to familiar greetings and simple instructions.	Recognise familiar words and phrases.	Understand simple questions and short conversations.	Understand longer spoken sentences using context.	Understand increasingly authentic spoken French with growing independence.
Speaking	Repeat words and greetings.	Introduce themselves using simple phrases.	Answer simple questions using words and short phrases.	Hold short conversations and express simple opinions.	Speak in connected sentences with increasing fluency.	Communicate confidently using extended language and spontaneous responses.
Reading	Recognise simple symbols and pictures.	Match familiar words to pictures.	Read familiar words and simple phrases.	Read and understand simple sentences independently.	Read short paragraphs and identify key information.	Read longer texts and infer meaning using known vocabulary and context.
Writing	Copy marks and simple words through play.	Copy familiar words accurately.	Write familiar words and simple phrases.	Write short sentences independently.	Write connected paragraphs using known vocabulary.	Produce extended writing using familiar grammar and vocabulary independently.

Vocabulary Progression

Year Group	Vocabulary Themes
Nursery	Greetings, Colours, Numbers, Simple Manners
Reception	Greetings, Family, Animals, Colours, Numbers, Weather
Year 3	Greetings, Introductions, Numbers, Colours, Classroom Language, Days, Months, Family
Year 4	Food, Home, School, Town, Clothes, Weather, Transport, Family, Playtime
Year 5	Body, Sport, Hobbies, Holidays, Shopping, Café, Directions, Daily Routine
Year 6	Environment, Future Aspirations, Travel, Jobs, Healthy Living, Francophone Countries, Festivals

Grammar Progression

Year Group	Grammar Knowledge
Nursery	Hear and repeat French sounds through songs and stories.
Reception	Recognise that French words may sound different from English. Begin copying pronunciation accurately.
Year 3	Articles (un, une, le, la), masculine and feminine nouns, simple sentence patterns, greetings and simple questions.
Year 4	Adjectives, simple verbs, singular and plural nouns, basic word order, simple questions and answers.
Year 5	Present tense verbs, conjunctions (et, mais, parce que), negatives, adjectival agreement and sentence building.
Year 6	Manipulate known grammar independently, extend sentences using connectives, justify opinions, use dictionaries and reference materials confidently.

Phonics Progression

Year Group	Phonics Focus
Nursery	Listening to French sounds through songs and rhymes.
Reception	Repeat common French sounds accurately.
Year 3	Learn key French phonemes and letter strings. Develop accurate pronunciation.
Year 4	Apply phonics knowledge to decode unfamiliar vocabulary.
Year 5	Improve pronunciation and intonation whilst reading unfamiliar words.
Year 6	Apply phonics confidently when reading, speaking and spelling unfamiliar vocabulary independently.

Cultural Understanding Progression

Year Group	Cultural Knowledge
Nursery	Recognise that different countries speak different languages.
Reception	Know that French is spoken in France. Explore simple French songs, stories and celebrations.
Year 3	Learn about France, its flag, landmarks and simple customs.
Year 4	Compare French and British schools, food and daily life.
Year 5	Explore regions of France and other French-speaking countries. Understand traditions and celebrations.
Year 6	Develop understanding of the wider Francophone world, recognising diversity across countries where French is spoken and appreciating the role of language in global communication.

Assessment in French

At Greatstone Primary School, assessment in French is continuous, purposeful and designed to celebrate progress in communication rather than simply the memorisation of vocabulary. Assessment informs future teaching, identifies misconceptions and ensures pupils build confidence as linguists.

Our assessment is based upon the National Curriculum Programme of Study and the progression model used within the **Language Angels** scheme, assessing pupils' development across the four language skills alongside their understanding of phonics, grammar and vocabulary.

Assessment Principles

Principle	What this looks like at Greatstone
Assessment is formative	Teachers use questioning, games, retrieval practice, observation and discussion throughout every lesson to identify understanding and adapt teaching.
Communication over perfection	Pupils are encouraged to take risks when speaking French. Confidence, participation and developing fluency are valued alongside accuracy.
Knowledge builds over time	Vocabulary, grammar and phonics are revisited regularly to ensure pupils retain and apply prior learning in new contexts.
Assessment informs teaching	Teachers identify misconceptions, gaps in vocabulary or grammar and use retrieval activities to strengthen long-term memory.

Progress is cumulative	Assessment focuses on how pupils are developing as language learners across the four language skills rather than judging isolated pieces of work.
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What We Assess

Strand	Evidence teachers look for
Listening	Can pupils understand familiar vocabulary, classroom instructions, questions and short spoken passages?
Speaking	Can pupils communicate confidently using accurate pronunciation, appropriate vocabulary and increasingly complex sentence structures?
Reading	Can pupils decode, understand and interpret increasingly challenging written French?
Writing	Can pupils write words, phrases and increasingly independent sentences using previously taught language?
Vocabulary	Can pupils recall and apply previously taught vocabulary in new contexts?
Grammar	Can pupils manipulate sentence structures, verbs and grammatical features appropriate to their stage of learning?
Phonics & Pronunciation	Can pupils pronounce familiar sounds accurately and use their phonics knowledge to decode unfamiliar words?

Assessment Across the School

Phase	Assessment Approach
Nursery	Observation of participation in songs, greetings, stories and simple spoken language. No formal assessment.
Reception	Teacher observation of listening, participation and confidence when responding to familiar language. No formal assessment.
Years 3–6	Ongoing formative assessment through speaking, listening, reading and writing activities, alongside end-of-unit assessments where appropriate. Pupils also reflect on their own progress through simple self-assessment activities.

Evidence of Learning

Teachers gather evidence through a range of activities including:

- speaking with partners and groups;
- pronunciation activities;
- listening tasks;
- retrieval quizzes;
- reading and comprehension activities;
- written sentence building;
- role play and conversations;
- performances and presentations;
- end-of-unit outcomes;
- pupil self-reflection.

End Points

By the end of **Lower Key Stage 2**, pupils will:

- understand and respond to familiar spoken French;
- ask and answer simple questions;
- read familiar words and simple sentences;
- write words and short sentences from memory;
- understand basic phonics and grammatical structures;
- develop confidence in communicating aloud.

By the end of **Upper Key Stage 2**, pupils will:

- communicate confidently using familiar vocabulary and sentence structures;
- understand increasingly authentic spoken and written French;
- manipulate language independently;
- write increasingly extended texts;
- justify opinions and give reasons;
- recognise similarities and differences between French and English;
- develop appreciation of French and wider Francophone cultures.