



St. Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath.

The Manor C of E Primary School

Policy: Modern Foreign Language

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Approved: _____ Headteacher

_____ Chair of Governors

1. Introduction

In our school we teach a foreign language to all children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other languages later in life.

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in and a positive attitude to learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.

3. Organisation

We teach a foreign language to children as follows:

Reception, Y1, Y2 – Aim to introduce informally through greetings, numbers, colours, answering the register. Plan to build up a scheme of work for Foundation/KS1.

Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 – Aim to teach 30 minutes per week specific teaching with 5-10 minutes daily follow-up from January 2010.

4. The Curriculum

4.1 French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

4.2 The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised KS2 Framework for Languages. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- look at life in another culture.

5. Teaching and Learning Style

5.1 We aim to base the teaching on the guidance material in the QCA scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We are adapting this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

5.2 We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language. We plan for progress in all five strands outlined in the Framework for Languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative. Learning activities are broad and varied and appeal to children's different learning styles – visual, oral and kinaesthetic. The focus is on the importance of communication in the language. Real languages for real purposes, interaction with others e.g. sketches, role-plays. We aim to make links with other areas of the curriculum where possible and relevant.

6. Teaching a modern foreign language to children with special educational needs

At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

7. Monitoring and review

7.1 We plan to monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The headteacher will report to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as in any other subject. The governor's curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching of French.

7.2 The headteacher also liaises with the local secondary schools, so that they are aware of the modern foreign language experience of our children when they move to the next phase of their education.