

French Policy

Mission Statement

“Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. The natural links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enhance the overall teaching and learning experience. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained can make a major contribution to the development of children’s oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture/s and those of others.”

Framework for Languages (DfES 2005)

At Repton School Abu Dhabi we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

Educational Aims

- to develop pupils’ communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning
- to develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the target language and English
- to enhance pupils’ awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduce a further international dimension to pupils’ learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others.
- to provide a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects

Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning French in Repton School Abu Dhabi are to:

- foster an interest in learning other languages
- introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- stimulate and encourage children’s curiosity about languages
- encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another

- help the children to further develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries
- develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills
- lay the foundations for future study
- extend language teaching beyond mother tongue learning

Approach

At Repton School Abu Dhabi we believe in a communicative approach in which all pupils can actively engage in meaningful tasks. Greatest emphasis will be given to speaking and listening, with writing and some reading where relevant in KS1 and KS2.

The children are taught how to:

- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and grammar
- memorise words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- work in pairs and groups and communicate in French
- look at life in another culture

Tasks and activities will:

- have clear, achievable objectives
- be carefully planned and structured
- be practical, active and varied
- involve the use of Computing where appropriate
- include whole class, small group and pair work
- promote success and self esteem

French is introduced at Foundation Stage One through to KS2 and is taught within a planned scheme of work based in accordance with the National Curriculum guidelines for Modern Languages.

Unit 1: *Je parle français!*

Unit 2: *Les Couleurs*

Unit 3: *En famille*

Unit 4: *Mes animaux*

Unit 5: *Mon anniversaire*

Unit 6: *Moi et mon école*

Unit 7: *Qu'est-ce que tu veux?*

Unit 8: *Les sports*

Teaching and learning styles

The French Department at Repton School Abu Dhabi will use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement with the French Language, including games, role play and action songs. We will also use mime, flash cards and other visual and auditory stimulus to present new vocabulary.

A multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching is used, i.e. a physical element is introduced into some of the games, rhymes and songs as this serves to reinforce memory. The French teacher will make lessons as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to learning the French Language. Children's confidence is built through praise for their contribution.

Assessment

We will assess children's progress informally during the lessons, evaluating progress against the four National Attainment Targets of:

- Listening and Responding;
- Speaking;
- Reading and Responding;
- Writing

The two latter points will be more evident when the children progress to KS2 as the school develops. Formal comments on their progress in French will be made in reports to parents in the summer term.

Conclusion

Our pupils will benefit from their early start in learning the French Language, this will in turn provide a sound basis for future learning.

Reviewed Date: January 2018

Next Review Date: January 2019