

FRENCH

What is the importance of the subject? Why should pupils be studying it? Why should they care about it? How might the subject link to the real world / real life scenarios?

At 14 years old, you may feel fairly confident that you are never going to need another language. Yet the truth is, life has unpredictable patterns and even if you don't need French, you may need to know how to learn a second language. That being said, the importance of French in the world is growing rapidly.

Learning French at GCSE teaches you that not all languages work in the same way and understanding this means you will be able to learn any other language in the future.

You may:

- Be sent to another country with your job
- Get a girlfriend or boyfriend whose family don't speak English
- Go travelling/or on holiday to a place where there is a less English
- Go volunteering abroad
- Apply to job which requires knowledge of a second language.
- Make friends abroad or make friends from abroad
- Take a gap year as an au pair in Germany, or as a sports coach in Canada, or as a teacher in Japan or as a ski instructor in France or as rep in Spain and more...
- Work for a company in the UK which has connections to an international company

So why French here at Millom?

- French links to many other languages because they have the same origins. People who know French can then pick up Spanish, Italian and Portuguese faster.
- French is one of the world's most widely spoken languages across the continents (with speakers in Europe North America, Africa, Oceania and Asia)
- It is predicted that there could be 750 million French speakers by 2050.¹
- 30% of English comes from French and so a knowledge of French can help you understand unknown English words!²
- French is sought after by companies and organisations, in 2017 over 10,000 jobs had a knowledge of French listed as a requirement.³
- According to the British Council, French is currently the most needed language for cultural, economic, educational, diplomatic and security purposes.⁴

¹ [The world's changing language landscape - ICFE Monitor](#)

² [31 English Words That Are Actually French \(babbel.com\)](#)

³ [languages for the future report 1.pdf \(britishcouncil.org\)](#)

⁴ [languages for the future report 1.pdf \(britishcouncil.org\)](#)

What are the key concepts or big ideas underpinning the subject?

- Understanding the linguistics and phonetics in French with reflection on the similarities and differences to English.
- A cultural understanding of the French-speaking world by learning more about French-speaking places around the continents, their sport, music, films, TV, leisure and festivities.
- Developing communication skills by focusing regularly on writing, speaking, reading and listening.
- Developing cognitive skills in decoding, inference and finding patterns.

What topics will the pupils be studying in each year group?

Year 7

Autumn: La rentrée : Going back to school.

- The French alphabet
- Introductions in French
- Brothers, sisters and age
- Describing a classroom
- Likes and dislikes
- Describing yourself and others
- Saying what activities you do

Spring: En classe: in school.

- Colours
- Telling the time
- School subjects.
- what you wear at school.
- Your school day
- School in France
- School facilities

Summer: Mon temps libre: my free time.

- Weather and seasons
- Which sports you play
- More detail on what activities you do
- Discovering sport in French-speaking countries
- More detail on what you like to do in your spare time

Year 8

Autumn: Ma vie de famille: my family life.

- Family and Pets
- Higher Numbers
- Describing where you live
- Breakfast in France
- Bastille Day

Spring: En ville: In town.

- Places in your town or village
- Understanding prices in French
- Where you go at the weekend
- Inviting someone out
- Ordering drinks and snacks in a café
- Saying what you are going to do
- Talking about plans for a special weekend

Summer: Vive les vacances: School holidays

- Places you visit on holiday
- School holidays in French-speaking countries
- What you did during the holidays
- Places you visited

Year 9

Autumn: A loisir: Talking about leisure activities

- Talking about digital technology
- Going to the cinema
- TV and film genres
- Going shopping
- Talking about what hobbies you do and do not do

Spring: Le monde est petit

- Describing your region
- What you do around the house
- Your daily routine
- Moving house
- Corsica

Summer:

- Comparing what sports you like and dislike
- Directions
- Tourism destinations in towns and cities
- Healthy lifestyle and visiting the doctor
- Professional sport

From September 2024, KS4 students will study the below topics:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular Culture

· Topic 1: Free-time activities

· Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations

· Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest

Topic 2: Media and technology

Topic 3: The environment and where people live

Students will be able to:

- Communicate in three time frames and in differences tenses.
- Expand their vocab
- Compare and contrast
- Give and justify their opinions.
- Develop their grammatical knowledge
- Develop their pronunciation and intonation

What key capacities/skills will the pupils develop?

Whilst learning languages, students will develop:

Determination through participating and taking risks, not being scared of new things, seeing mistakes as learning opportunities, using a variety of strategies to overcome challenges, reviewing and improving past work, self-assessing and setting goals.

Communication through having fun with sounding as authentic as possible, being a good listener, using a variety of strategies to overcome challenges, looking for patterns and seeing how words are connected, listening, speaking, reading and writing in French in class.

Positivity through knowing it's ok to have an 'off day' from time to time, participating and taking risks, not worrying about not understanding every word, not being scared of grammar or listening tasks.

Understanding through looking for patterns and seeing how words are connected
Independence through keeping a neat and organised book (and knowing how to use it), looking for patterns and seeing how words are connected.

Collaboration through listening in class and following instructions, working together, participating and taking risks, using a variety of strategies to overcome challenges, reviewing and improving past work, self-assessing and setting goals.

Investigation through asking questions, participating and taking risks, looking for patterns and seeing how words, topics and all subjects are connected.

How are the pupils learning and being assessed in this subject? How does the subject support the learning of ALL pupils?

At KS3, students are assessed in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. They will develop the exam skills they will need at KS4. At KS4, students are assessed in all four skills and develop exam skills throughout the course. In the exam, students will be entered for either Foundation (target grades 1 to 5) or Higher (target grades 6 to 9). Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.

How can pupils progress in this subject, as in opportunities at KS4, KS5 and beyond?

At KS4, we offer GCSE French (AQA Specification code: 8658)
This can then lead to A level and University studies.

How does the subject support careers education, information, advice and guidance? What career pathways can pupils take by studying this subject further?

If you are able to speak a foreign language, it will increase your chances of finding work abroad, whatever job you want to do. Back home, many employers are keen to track down candidates who can speak foreign languages, whether they are a tech company working with big clients abroad or a charity providing support to vulnerable people who might not speak English as their first language. Most big companies have offices in more than one place too. For example, Google has 70 offices all over the world, so being able to speak a second language could increase your chances of being hired. Here are some examples of popular careers where speaking a second language can really give you the edge.

Teacher

There is shortage of language teachers in schools and there are bursaries available for people who want to train to teach some of the priority languages such as French, German and Spanish. Understanding another language can also help you teach English as a foreign language.

Linguist

Linguists are scientists who study other languages, including how we develop speech, understanding and patterns of communications in different cultures. They work in all kinds of fields, from academic research (studying and preserving languages that are dying out), to tech companies (developing voice recognition technologies and artificial intelligence.)

Journalist

Fancy working as a foreign correspondent, covering international sports events or interviewing foreign politicians? Being able to speak another language fluently will give you the chance to track down even more great stories and travel with your work.

Interpreter / translator

Interpreters and translators are fluent in at least 2 languages. Translators convert recorded or written materials into another language whereas interpreters do the same 'live', helping people who do not share a language understand each other. They are needed everywhere, from politics to business, healthcare, media, and careers in social services.

Lawyer

International law firms can have offices all over the world and will always value candidates with a second language. Some may even specify what languages they are looking for in job ads. You may also want to specialise in international law, like human or animal rights, environmental and trade laws. Speaking another language is crucial. The United Nations, for instance, has six official languages, including French.

Fashion buyer / distributor

Fashion retailers can distribute their products all over the world. Normally, their clothes and goods will be made in factories outside the UK too, so buyers and distributors for big brands will often have to deal with people internationally. Two of the biggest global fashion events are in Paris and Milan, so having a bit of French (that helps you understand Italian too!) can work wonders. Whatever your fashion job.

International charity worker

Working for an international charity will often give you the opportunity to go abroad and work directly with communities. Even if you work in the UK, you will normally have to speak with people in local country offices over the phone, so having a second language can be crucial to getting the job done.

Other ideas...

Private tutor
Tour manager
Event organiser
Detective
Spy

How can pupils enrich their knowledge and understanding in this subject?

- Watch films in French with English subtitles or watch films in English with French subtitles with Netflix or Disney+.
- Listen to French Radio
- Follow French influencers on YouTube or Insta
- Message your friends in French
- When shopping, try to remember colours, numbers, shapes or any vocabulary you have learnt.
- Speak to your pet in French!
- Listen to French music on YouTube or spotify
- Rehearse the songs we learn in class in the shower!