

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?

Learning a foreign language in the classroom gives students a point of comparison with their own language at every possible stage, through word, sentence and text level work. Learning a language has a huge influence on confidence and literacy. Modern Languages teaches how language works and makes the learner more aware of the mechanics and imaginative use of the mother tongue. As learners compare the new language with their native language, they gain a deeper awareness of how language functions.

“Creativity ranks high in many employers’ wish-list for a workforce able to find solutions to the challenges of the twenty-first century. Research confirms what has been long suspected: that we can boost our creativity by learning languages. It’s not hard to see why: learning a language stops you over-relying on the same old habits and reflexes; it pushes your mind in new directions; it makes you able to adopt an unfamiliar mindset. That’s also why language-learning boosts our children’s achievement in other areas of the curriculum. People of all ages who have done little or no effective language-learning are really missing out.” (Professor Neil Kenny, Lead Fellow for Languages at the British Academy).

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

Being able to communicate effectively is perhaps the most important of all life skills. It is what enables us to pass information to other people, and to understand what is said to us. Communication, at its simplest, is the act of transferring information from one place to another. It may be vocally (using voice), written (using printed or digital media such as books, magazines, websites or emails), visually (using logos, maps, charts or graphs) or non-verbally (using body language, gestures and the tone and pitch of voice). In practice, it is often a combination of several of these. We work on developing all these skills in languages lessons.

In brief, what topics will the pupils be studying in each year group?

Year 7.

1. French phonics

Learning to sound French through revising what might have been learnt in primary school or learning new vocabulary and phrases.

2. La rentrée : going back to school.

Talking about brothers, sisters and age

Describing a classroom

Talking about likes and dislikes

Describing yourself and others

Saying what you do

3. En classe: in school.

Talking about colours

Telling the time
Saying what you think about your school subjects and why.
Talking about what you wear at school.
Talking about your school day
Learning about a typical French school
Saying what there is and isn't in a school.

Year 8

1. Mon temps libre: my free time.

Talking about weather and seasons
Talking about which sports you play
Talking about activities you do
Discovering sport in French-speaking countries
Talking about what you like to do

2. Ma vie de famille : my family life.

Talking about animals
Describing a family
Describing where you live
Talking about breakfast
Learning about Bastille Day

3. En ville: In town.

Talking about places in town or village
Understanding prices in French
Saying 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

Year 9

There are two pathways in Year 9, one that starts the GCSE course and another that concentrate mainly on communication skills and understanding of grammar, clearly linked to English, aimed at developing the communication skills of students who have learning difficulties.

Pathway 1: GCSE

1. Qui suis-je? Who am I?

GCSE theme 1: Identity and culture
Talking about friends and what makes a good friend.
Talking about family relationships.
Making arrangements to go out.
Describing a day out.
Discussing role models

2. Le temps des loisirs : leisure time.

GCSE theme 1: Identity and culture
Talking about sport
Talking about using technology

Discussing reading habits and music
Talking about television programs
Talking about a night out with friends.

3. Jours ordinaires, jours de fête: normal days, celebrations days.

GCSE theme 1: Identity and culture

Talking about food and meals
Describing daily life
Describing festivals and traditions
Talking about shopping for a special meal
Talking about shopping for clothes
Using polite language

Pathway 2: Communication skills

Depending on the students' interests, the teacher will choose from a variety of topics such as Art, Chocolate, Sport, Music and TV.

Year 10

1. De la ville à la campagne: from town to countryside.

GCSE theme 2: local, national international and global areas of interest

Talking about where you live and what you can do there.
Asking the way in town
Describing a region
Finding out tourist information
Discussing plans and the weather
Talking about your town, village or neighbourhood.

2. Bon travail: good job

GCSE theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

Discussing work preferences
Talking about hopes, plans and wishes for the future
Talking about how they earn money.
Discussing work experience.

3. Au college: at school.

GCSE theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

GCSE theme 2: local, national international and global areas of interest
Giving opinions on school subjects and facilities
Talking about schools in England and in French speaking countries.
Discussing rules and regulations
Discussing healthy and unhealthy living
Talking about school activities
Talking about successes at school.

Year 11

1. Le grand large: the open sea

GCSE theme 2: local, national international and global areas of interest

Dealing with a hotel stay
Talking about travelling
Saying what you do, did or are going to do on holiday

Ordering in a restaurant
Talking about holiday disasters
Buying souvenirs

2. Un œil sur le monde: and eye on the world

GCSE theme 2: local, national international and global areas of interest
Discussing the weather and natural disasters
Talking about protecting the environment
Discussing ethical shopping
Talking about volunteering
Discussing big events.

3. Revision, exam skills and extension for Higher students.

Extension topics
Talking about your life when you were younger
Talking about actors and films
Discussing community projects
Talking about an ideal holiday
Reviewing hotels
Applying for jobs
Understanding case studies
Discussing problems facing the world

In brief, what key capacities/skills will the pupils develop? (should be linked to the Millom Learner)

Whilst learning languages, students will develop:

Determination through participating and taking risks, not being scared of new things, seeing mistakes as learning opportunities, understanding it's the teacher's job to teach, but only they can learn, 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, singing in French in the shower!

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,

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, seeing mistakes as learning opportunities,

Collaboration through listening in class and following instructions, participating and taking risks, understanding it's the teacher's job to teach, but only they can learn, 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.

In brief, how are the pupils learning and being assessed in this subject? How does the subject support the learning of ALL pupils (including stretch)?

At KS3, students are assessed in at least 2 skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) every unit. They develop the exam skills they will need at KS4.

Assessments are differentiated so all students can achieve their full potential. 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 CEIAG? 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 (yes, really!)

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

Watch films in French with English subtitles (you can do this on Netflix!)

When shopping, try to remember colours, numbers, shapes or any vocabulary you have learnt. Can you say the price you have to pay in French?

Speak to your pet in French!

Rehearse the songs we learn in class in the shower!