

Why is this subject important?

French is a key part of the National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages. It helps pupils develop communication skills, cultural awareness, and an understanding of global citizenship. Learning French fosters cognitive development and opens doors to international opportunities in education, travel, and employment.

How might the subject link to the real world / real life scenarios?

French is spoken by over 300 million people worldwide across five continents. Pupils can use French in real-life contexts such as travel, international business, diplomacy, and hospitality. It also supports understanding of global issues and intercultural communication, preparing students for a connected world.

What are the fundamental concepts of the subject?

- Vocabulary acquisition across themes like family, school, hobbies, and travel.
- Grammar foundations including verb conjugations, tenses, gender, and sentence structure.
- Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
- Cultural knowledge of French-speaking countries.
- Translation and interpretation between French and English.

What topics will the pupils be studying in each year?

Key Stage 3

Year 7: Greetings, personal info, classroom language; Family and pets; Numbers, dates, weather; French culture and festivals.

Year 8: Daily routine, food, hobbies; School subjects and timetable; Describing people and places; Travel and transport.

Year 9: Holidays, future plans, media; Environment and social issues; Careers and aspirations; Revision and GCSE preparation.

Key Stage 4

Year 10: GCSE Theme 1: Identity and culture; GCSE Theme 2: Local, national, international areas of interest; Grammar consolidation; Listening and reading strategies.

These aims align with the AQA GCSE French specification, which encourages students to:

- Communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Deepen knowledge of how language works and enrich vocabulary
- Understand and respond to authentic spoken and written material
- Develop awareness of the culture and identity of French-speaking communities

- Build a strong foundation for further study and employment

Year 11: GCSE Theme 3: Current and future study and employment; Revision and exam practice; Speaking and writing assessments; Centre Assessment preparation and interventions.

What key skills will the pupils develop over time?

Aligned with the Millom Learner, pupils develop:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Resilience and independence
- Cultural empathy and global awareness
- Literacy and memory retention

How are all pupils learning in this subject?

- Adaptive teaching supports SEN pupils through scaffolding, visual aids, and differentiated tasks.
- High aspirations are encouraged via stretch activities and exposure to authentic materials.
- EEF strategies such as retrieval practice, guided instruction, and structured reflection and review opportunities are embedded in lessons and supplement homework activity.

How are pupils assessed in this subject?

- KS3: Low-stakes quizzes, vocabulary tests, and end-of-unit assessments.
- KS4: Formal assessments in listening, speaking, reading, and writing aligned with GCSE criteria.
- Homework: Regular vocabulary learning, grammar exercises, and cultural research.
- Intervention: Targeted support sessions, peer mentoring, and revision clubs for pupils below expected progress.

How can pupils progress in this subject?

- KS4: GCSE French
- KS5: A-Level French
- Beyond: University degrees, apprenticeships, and careers in translation, international relations, teaching, tourism, and more.
- CEIAG: French supports careers in diplomacy, journalism, law, and global business.

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

- Enrichment: French film club, pen-pal exchanges, cooking workshops.

- Reading: Access to French literature and magazines.
- Competitions: National MFL contests and debating events.
- Professional links: Participation in student branches of language associations.