

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at Goodrich Church of England Primary School



*“To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.”
(Chinese proverb)*

Studying a language in primary school provides children with skills that are essential for the twenty-first century. As well as giving them the opportunity to learn a second language, an increasingly important skill in our globalised society, it also helps to promote and develop a broader intercultural understanding. The study of a second language also supports children’s general literacy and oracy, by raising awareness of their own language and thereby enriching their understanding of both. Furthermore, primary languages are about fun, communication, confidence building, developing learning strategies, learning about similarities and differences and respecting others.

AIMS

Our aim, which is at the heart of the programme of study for KS2, is to develop an enthusiastic and positive attitude to other languages and language learning. We hope to encourage a life-long love of language learning among our pupils in order to enhance their understanding of the world and their future economic well-being.

APPROACH TO LANGUAGE TEACHING

At Goodrich CE (VC) Primary School, Modern Foreign Languages are introduced formally across all of Key Stage 2. In Years 3, 4 and 5 French is the main language taught. We showcase the language in a real life situation as a tool for communication being used for real purpose in a daily classroom routine and it gives our pupils the chance to pick up incidental language in addition to the vocabulary and structures being studied.

Culture plays a part in our MFL lessons. Festivals/celebrations are taught where appropriate throughout the year. e.g. Chinese New Year, Easter Christmas around the world, etc. We also give children the experience to learn about other cultures and languages through our chosen topics. For example, during our Ancient Greek Topic, the children have a Greek Day where they are taught by a specialist teacher on how to speak and write in Greek. Days like this place a value on difference and encourage children to share and value their varied backgrounds in a secure and enabling environment. It helps to link the school with the wider world.