

French at Queen Eleanor

“Learning a language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures.” – National Curriculum purpose of study

We think using language, so learning a language opens new worlds and paths to understanding different cultures and histories. Learning a language also allows for deeper understanding of other languages by comparing similarities and differences. Languages is also a practical subject as much of the world is multilingual.

Linguistic skills (Classification and retention)

Reciting songs, stories, rhymes

Learning phonetics of a foreign language

Acquire Tiers 1 and 3 vocabulary, develop Tier 2 vocabulary

Compare and contrast grammatical structures across languages

Learn features of shared French culture across La Francophonie and cultural aspects of those regions

Working like a linguist (Retention and application)

Analyse grammatical structures to describe rules for conjugation, creating participles and declension

Explain how languages express ideas differently

Explain how a language has evolved over time and how interaction between languages changes both languages. Compare and contrast with etymologies of other Indo-European languages.

Compare and contrast themes in French literature, folk tales and song to familiar literature and songs in English

Build knowledge of culture through explaining figurative and literal meaning of idiomatic expressions

Sequencing content (Retention and connections)

Developmentally appropriate – teaching nouns and verbs first. Use call and response to model pronunciation.

Teach high frequency verbs and regular conjugations then irregular. Teach useful set phrases to use in conversation.

Compare and contrast grammatical structures to those used in English.

Links to music – sing songs, poems and rhymes in French

Links to RE – name St. John the Baptist Day as a major Francophone holiday

Links to geography – identify countries of La Francophonie.

Links to history – explain certain how English words have French roots in the Norman conquest, explain spread of French across the globe is a remnant of imperialism.

Success for all

Learning with the brain in mind, match with images and actions

Differentiation for language needs, including SLCN and differing stages of English acquisition

Compare and contrast French to children’s other home languages

Oracy – apply skills through conversation and public presentations

Assessment and progress

Retention – quizzing of set phrases, topic vocabulary, verb conjugation and dictation

Application – conversation and public presentation, oral recitation of poetry

Application – apply knowledge of French language and culture in history, RE and English