

Year 8 Curriculum Intent for French

At Dixons Cottingley we develop students to lead successful and happy lives and make a positive contribution to their community. Our curriculum in each year is designed to provide experiences, opportunities, knowledge and skills that enrich and challenge our students. We understand that the curriculum is key to determining the life chances and choices for our students and therefore we will not compromise on providing the very best. We achieve this in French through the below:

By the end of Year 8 students at Dixons Cottingley studying will be exposed to the following:

- The importance of learning languages
- The phonetical make-up of the French language
- The basic grammar of the French language
- The past and future tenses with their grammatical structure
- A variety of authentic French texts (in both written and oral formats)
- Aspects of the culture and festivals of France and La Francophonie (French speaking countries)
- The similarities and differences between the French and English language

By the end of Year 8 students at Dixons Cottingley studying French will be taught the following knowledge and skills:

- Students will continue to develop the ability to pronounce words correctly in French with increasing confidence and good pronunciation as they develop a deeper understanding of French phonics.
- Students will develop the ability to communicate orally in French, with some fluency and spontaneity, in order to be able to hold a general conversation in French as well as be able to describe pictures, photographs and take part in a role play.
- Students will develop the skills of writing in French, communicating effectively and creatively for a variety of purposes, writing short texts (40-90 words) using simple, compound and some complex sentences / complex grammar structures to explain opinions and wishes as well as describe key events.
- Students will develop the skills of reading in French and be able to read out loud familiar and unfamiliar words /phrases, simple and compound sentences with confidence & good pronunciation.
- Students will be able to read, recognise and understand cognates, near cognates and pre-learnt words in short phrases, simple and compound sentences.
- Students will be able to use knowledge of grammar & the context of an written or spoken text to work out the meaning of new language.
- Students will be able to understand main points and opinions from a written or spoken passage / literacy texts and authentic materials containing language from a range of familiar contexts.
- Students will be able to answer multiple choice questions and true/false questions in French based on a written or spoken passage in French.
- Students will develop the ability to re-use new vocab, phrases and grammatical structures and tenses learnt through reading in their speaking & writing.
- Students will learn how to transcribe accurately simple and compound sentences in present, past and future tenses with opinions.
- Students will develop their listening skills and be able to recognise and understand key sounds, words, opinions in simple and compound sentences with present, past and future tenses in spoken passages.
- Students will learn how to understand opinions from a spoken passage containing language from a range of familiar contexts with repetition.
- Students will further develop the skills of translating known words, opinions, short phrases using simple and compound sentences between French and English, applying their grammatical knowledge of language structures and the present, past and future tenses.
- Students will continue to practise their dictionary skills, so that they can independently find new words and communicate the messages they want to. In addition, students will learn how to look for patterns in words/ phrases.
- Students will understand and practise a variety of techniques to learn and retain new vocabulary and short phrases.
- Students will also learn about the culture of France and French speaking countries. In Year 8 students will be able to:
 - recall similarities and differences between schools in France and UK.
 - understand and describe the main festivals of Mardi Gras and the Festival of Music.
 - name a number of major cities and towns in France.
 - name a variety of French speaking singers and groups.

In order to truly appreciate the subject and create deep schema, French has been sequenced with the following rationale:

- At the beginning of year 8 students will be reminded about the importance of studying and speaking languages into today's global society.



- During the whole of year 8, students will revisit the French phonics taught in Year 7. This will help students to consolidate and deepen their knowledge of the phonemes – graphemes links in French as well as help to develop all other linguistic skills.
- Year 8 will start with a focus on school. This will allow students to revisit grammatical knowledge acquired in Year 7 as well as start to introduce different tenses. As the scheme develops students will learn about schools in France and explore some of the cultural differences between schools in France and in the UK.
- Students will then explore the theme of house and home, learning about the different types of houses in France, describing places in town with a final subtopic exploring French towns, specifically Paris including key monuments and cultural activities.
- The last unit in Year 8 is hobbies and pastimes. Students learn about the festival of Mardi Gras and then study music including French musicians (past and present), singers and groups, musical instruments as well as concerts and the Festival of Music.

The French curriculum at Cottingley has been influenced by:

- The latest research developed by NCELP and Dixons MFL Hub.
- The topics students find interesting.
- The calendar of French customs & festivals.

Our French curriculum ensures that social disadvantage is addressed through:

- Disadvantaged students will follow the same curricular pathway as it is important that they are provided with access to the same body of French knowledge and cultural capital. They will be supported through quality first teaching and intervention and support as required. The use of French regalia, authentic texts and resources will help their engagement and progress. Students will also be provided with a booklet containing the key facts about France, French speaking countries, famous people and key historical events.
- SEN students follow the same curricular pathway as it is important that they are provided with access to the same body of French knowledge. This is supported through clearly differentiated teaching which will include a multi-sensory approach.

Our belief is that homework is used for deliberate practice of what has been taught in lessons. We also use retrieval practice and spaced revision to support all students with committing knowledge to long term memory. This will be supported in year 8 by a common framework of learning and understanding. Commitment to memory of this knowledge will be supported through the interspacing of knowledge, with regular retrieval practice and interleaving previously taught content into new content throughout the course.

Opportunities to build an understanding of social, moral and ethical issues are developed alongside links to the wider world, including careers, through:

1. Equipping students with systematic and powerful knowledge about the French language and culture so that they are able to understand other cultures and value diversity.
2. Developing confident individuals who can participate positively and confidently in a foreign language.
3. The learning of the importance of languages in order to help guide and develop citizens who make a positive contribution to an inclusive, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society.
4. Giving students the opportunity to be reflective about their own home spoken languages and how they can use their natural linguistic skills in a new foreign language.
5. Being given the opportunity to understand and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped France and the French speaking world.
6. Exploring similarities and differences between French and British society and values.
7. Supporting the learning in other curricular areas such as English, Maths, Geography, PSHE, Music and Drama. Geography is supported through understanding of major towns in France and the French speaking countries around the world. PSHE is supported as in Year 8 we start to appreciate some of the cultural differences between France and the UK as well as learning about key festivals that form part of a country's cultural landscape. French also supports learning in Drama when students are acting in role plays when speaking in French and during the first cycle students learn the how to tell the time in French strengthening their knowledge of numbers. Music knowledge is further developed as students learn about the musical instruments in French and give their opinions about different genres of French music. English is supported throughout the scheme as words the same and similar to English are regularly discussed. In addition to this, KS2 grammar knowledge is continually revisited and applied when learning French.

A true love of French is developed by teaching beyond the domain of the classroom. Examples of such content:

- Reading for pleasure in French.
- Taking part in the British Council Language Challenge.
(https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/the_great_french_language_challenge.pdf)
- Taking part in the Dixons Cup Translation Bee.
- Following personal interests in French e.g. football, music, cooking.

Further Information can be found in:



- Long Term Plans
- Knowledge Navigators
- NCELP
- British Council
- Sue Cave Physical French Phonics

