

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School: Subject Specific Concepts and the reasons for our choices



Subject: French (MFL)

The National Curriculum explains that the teaching of a foreign language should provide an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and should lay the foundations for further foreign language teaching at key stage 3. It should enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing, focused on familiar and routine matters, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary. The focus of study in modern languages is on practical communication.

Concept	Why learn about this concept?	Year group studied
Speaking and Listening	<p>Speaking and Listening is a Harrietsham key concept because being able to communicate in another language teaches and encourages respect for other people: it fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature. Learning another language can expand a child's view of the world, promoting flexibility and tolerance.</p> <p>As all languages are learned initially through listening and talking, it is essential that our children learn that one of the most important things that clear pronunciation gives a learner is confidence; without which learners are reluctant to practise, take linguistic risks, learn from their mistakes and take ownership of their own learning. For many learners this could become a barrier. Therefore, at Harrietsham, we are implementing a 'phonics in action' programme which encourages children to produce unfamiliar sounds through action, supported by pictures, to match unfamiliar graphemes. This will give confidence and support to children of all abilities to pronounce unfamiliar words in the target language.</p> <p>In order to speak effectively, our children are exposed to a variety of opportunities to listen to the target language before producing sounds. Songs, rhymes, and familiar stories are shared with the children as early as possible. Being able to listen to and understand others encourages respect for all and is therefore an essential skill for all language learners, which can be applied across many curriculum areas to enrich learning opportunities as well as those of the target language.</p> <p>Our children will learn that they still might make mistakes, building on their resilience, but as they progress in their learning, they will increase in fluency to be able to easily communicate their thoughts and ideas orally. Pupils will learn that building fluency is very important because it enables learners to explain their views and engage in conversation with peers and/or native speakers.</p>	<p>Years 3 and 4 (main focus) but progressive through to year 6.</p> <p>Year 3 (main focus) Years 4, 5 and 6 progressive</p> <p>All years Years 5 and 6 (main focus)</p>
Reading	<p>Reading is a Harrietsham key concept because we believe that Reading is essential to the communication process. The written word contains cultural history, messages, stories and carries a purpose. It is important for children to engage with texts for enjoyment purposes, to enjoy sharing books and to have the enthusiasm to read and understand books in a foreign language as this will build both confidence and enjoyment.</p> <p>Reading should reinforce our children's knowledge of phonics and the communication process and will promote more fluid communication.</p>	<p>All years</p> <p>Years 4, 5 and 6</p>

<p>Writing and Grammar</p>	<p>Communication consists of several interdependent processes which transform a non-linguistic message into a spoken, signed, or written linguistic signal.</p> <p>Writing and Grammar is a Harrietsham key concept because we believe writing skills develop progressively as a result of progression in speaking, listening and reading skills. The learning of an additional language has the potential to support memory and learning processes and language representations, therefore the knowledge of grammar and sentence composition will be taught progressively with children being capable of manipulating basic grammar for their own communication purposes.</p>	<p>All years</p> <p>Years 4, 5 and 6 (focus)</p>
<p>Intercultural understanding</p>	<p>Intercultural understanding is a Harrietsham key concept because we believe that as the world around us becomes smaller and more accessible, it provides a wonderful opportunity for children to increase their ability to communicate as well as explore and deepen their understanding of different cultures.</p> <p>Understanding key historic events and their impact on another culture will provide a window into both the development of the target language as well as the beliefs and practices of different individuals around the world.</p>	<p>All years</p> <p>Year 3 (wider knowledge focus)</p>