

# The Willow Tree Academy



## MFL Statement of Intent

### **Intent**

The intention of the Languages curriculum at Willow Tree Academy is that children are given a profound primary experience that raises aspirations by creating a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world and its many alternative cultures. Our ambitious cross-curricular curriculum enables children to develop an interest in learning other languages in a way that is engaging and enjoyable. Children can express themselves with confidence as we stimulate and encourage their natural curiosity about language through high quality teaching and learning. We incorporate links to develop awareness of cultural differences in other countries through our protected characteristics, British values and curriculum enrichment opportunities. Our high expectations embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing necessary to enable children to use and apply their language learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for excellence during their language skills development.

Our MFL curriculum is designed to progressively develop children's language skills through regular taught lessons. Children progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary organised around topics. Teachers have a secure subject knowledge and follow the 'Willow Tree Academy' Scheme of work to ensure coverage and progression across school. This has been developed using supporting materials such as Lightbulb Languages. At Willow Tree Academy we use Language Nut as an online tool to support the teaching and learning of languages.

### **Implementation**

Children are encouraged and supported to develop their speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games. As confidence and skill grows, children record their work through pictures, captions and sentences.

-displays are used to remind children of key vocabulary.

-practical activities, songs and games are used to help improve memory and recall.

-In the classroom wherever possible instructions are given in French/alternative languages to expose children to the language as much as possible and in day to day contexts.

-Visual prompts are used to support children in translating new vocabulary.

-Word mats/Knowledge organisers are available for children to have out on desks to support their learning and recap previous learning.



## Assessment:

We strive to ensure that our pupil's attainment is in line or exceeds their potential when we consider the varied starting points of all our children. The learning challenges and progression grids used to plan and teach MFL ensure that children are accessing work at age related expectations, with regular opportunities to be challenged through higher-level objectives. Electronic assessment grids are completed termly. Percentages at Below, At and Above expected standard are calculated. Assessment grids are analysed by subject co-ordinators.

## Impact

Languages are monitored by subject leaders throughout all year groups using a variety of strategies such as topic folder scrutinies, lesson observations, staff discussions and pupil interviews. Feedback is given to teachers and leaders using the information gathered to ensure children know more and remember more.

## **How to Help at Home**

Here are some suggestions for ways you can help your child:

### **1. Take your child to a museum**

France and Spain have produced some of the most talented artists, such as Monet and Renoir (French) and Picasso and Dali (Spanish). Check your local museum's schedule to see when it is featuring a French or Spanish-inspired exhibition and take your child along. The admission for children is typically free.

### **2. Celebrate French/Spanish holidays**

Celebrating important French holidays, such as **Bastille Day** and Spanish holidays such as **La Semana Santa** will teach your child about French/Spanish history and religion. Celebrate by making some fun crafts or taking part in holiday traditions.

### **3. Cook a French/Spanish meal**

Familiarise your child with **French/Spanish cuisine** by having him or her help you whip up a traditional French/Spanish meal. Your child can channel their inner cooking skills with traditional French or Spanish dishes, such as quiche, crème brûlée and paella.

### **4. Watch a French/Spanish movie**

Fire up Netflix and host a **French/Spanish movie** night with your family. Here are some kid-friendly French/Spanish movies you and your child can enjoy: "A Monster in Paris," "The Red Balloon," and "Tintin and the Lake of Sharks."

### **5. Listen to French/Spanish music**

Do you have an Amazon or Spotify account? Download some French/Spanish songs to listen to while at home or on the road. Listening to French/Spanish music will help familiarise your child with French/Spanish accents and pronunciations.

### **6. Puzzles**

You can download and print dozens of free French/Spanish crosswords and word searches for your child. He or she will have fun playing, while simultaneously learning French/Spanish vocabulary and simple sentences. Keep a stack in the car for long road trips.



## 7. Memory game

Create some French/Spanish flashcards and place them face down on a table. Your child will flip over two cards. If the pictures match, your child will flip over two more cards. The point of the game is to match all of the cards from memory.

## 8. Colouring books

Purchase a French/Spanish colouring book for. These colouring books will spark your child's creativity, while helping him or her learn various vocabulary words and themes.

## 9. Read French/Spanish books

There are a ton of beginner French/Spanish books. Le Petit Prince is one of the most well-known French children's books. You can find the book in almost any book shop or online.

## 10. Hangman

This activity is played exactly like the original Hangman version, except you are using French/Spanish vocabulary words and phrases instead of English.

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