



French Curriculum Overview





French at Bridge Junior School

French gives every child the experience of learning a new language. Through active, enjoyable lessons, pupils develop confidence in speaking and listening, then learn to read, write and understand how languages are structured.

Confident communicators

Children begin with greetings, familiar vocabulary and short phrases. They rehearse, ask and answer questions, present ideas and gradually build conversations for everyday situations.

Language foundations

Phonics, vocabulary, sentence structures and grammar are taught sequentially. Children connect sound, spelling and meaning while comparing the structures of French, English and languages they already know.

Active language learning

Songs, rhymes, games, stories and role-play create frequent opportunities to hear authentic French, practise pronunciation, retrieve vocabulary and use language with purpose.

French broadens cultural understanding and prepares children for Key Stage 3. Pupils leave knowing that they can learn another language from the beginning and use it to connect with a wider world.



What we want our children to know...

Big Ideas

Children meet important ideas again and again:

- listening and responding
- accurate sounds and pronunciation
- words, phrases and sentences
- questions, answers and opinions
- reading for meaning
- writing from memory and adapting models
- gender, articles, verbs and agreement

Knowledge

Children build a practical word bank for familiar situations: introducing themselves, family, food, classroom life, weather, clothes, home, school, dates, weekends, healthy choices and the wider world.

Skills

Children develop speaking, listening, reading and writing together. Phonics supports pronunciation and decoding; grammar grows from noun gender and articles to pronouns, conjugated verbs, adjectives, connectives and agreement.



How we teach French at Bridge...

Six carefully sequenced six-week units build from Early Language through Intermediate to Progressive learning. Lessons prioritise retrieval, active speaking and repeated use of language in meaningful contexts.

1

Retrieve

Children recall familiar sounds, words and phrases and use them as the starting point for new language.

2

Listen and notice

Children hear authentic pronunciation in instructions, songs, rhymes, stories and longer passages, noticing key words and patterns.

3

Rehearse

Children practise phonics, vocabulary and sentence structures in chorus, pairs, games and role-play before using them independently.

4

Communicate

Children ask, answer, describe and present using increasingly fluent phrases and sentences.

5

Read, write and adapt

Children read for meaning, write from memory or models and adapt familiar language to express their own ideas.

Consistent provision

Language Angels supports subject knowledge, pronunciation and consistency. Teachers adapt resources so learning remains accessible, engaging and appropriately challenging.

Active experiences

Lessons use games, songs, rhymes, stories, partner talk, role-play and presentations so children hear and use French frequently.



How we know that our children are doing well...

They understand

Children recognise familiar and increasingly complex spoken and written French, identify key information and respond appropriately.

They communicate

Children ask and answer questions, exchange information, express simple opinions and sustain short conversations with increasing fluency.

They pronounce

Children apply phonics, spelling patterns, gesture and intonation so familiar language can be spoken or read aloud clearly and accurately.

They create

Children write phrases, sentences and short paragraphs, adapt models, select vocabulary and use grammar to communicate their own meaning.

What teachers check

Teachers use retrieval, listening tasks, partner talk, questioning, pronunciation, reading responses, written work, presentations, pupil voice and subject-leader monitoring to check progress.

What success looks like

Children become confident language learners. They can understand some French, notice how languages work, appreciate other cultures and approach Key Stage 3 ready to build on secure foundations.



TERM PLAN

French Units at Bridge...

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6
Year 3	Early Learning - I'm Learning French	Core Vocabulary	Animals	I Can	Shape	Little Red Riding Hood
Year 4	Phonetics lesson 2 PLUS Presenting Myself	Family	At the Tea Room	Classroom	Fruits	Goldilocks
Year 5	Phonetics lesson 3 PLUS Planets	Habitats	Weather	Clothes	Vegetables	My home
Year 6	Phonetics lesson 4 PLUS At School	What is the Date?	Regular Verbs	The Weekend	Healthy Lifestyles	Me in the World

Why it is sequenced this way?

Six units each year build vocabulary, phonics, sentence structure and grammar in a planned sequence. Familiar topics and stories support early confidence; later units demand longer conversations, independent writing and more complex language.



OVERVIEW

What children learn about in each year group...

Year 3

I'm Learning French

Children meet the sounds and rhythms of French, learn greetings and share simple information about themselves.

Core Vocabulary

High-frequency words and classroom language give pupils a useful base for listening, responding and joining in.

Animals

Familiar nouns support accurate pronunciation, recognition in print and early understanding of gender and articles.

I Can

Children use short sentences to say what they can do and begin linking spoken language with familiar verb forms.

Shape

Children retrieve numbers, colours and descriptions while reading, saying and writing short phrases.

Little Red Riding Hood

A familiar story develops attentive listening, sequencing, repeated language and confidence reading or retelling key phrases.

Year 4

Phonetics 2 + Presenting Myself

Children apply new sound patterns while asking and answering a wider range of questions about identity.

Family

Children describe family members, extend sentences and use nouns, possessive language and simple descriptions.

At the Tea Room

Role-play gives a practical context for ordering, responding politely, expressing preferences and using numbers.

Classroom

Children follow instructions, name objects and apply articles and gender to familiar nouns.

Fruits

Pupils express likes and dislikes, broaden food vocabulary and present short pieces of information.

Goldilocks

Children follow a familiar text, identify words and phrases, read aloud and use recurring language with increasing accuracy.



What children learn about in each year group...

Year 5

Phonetics 3 + Planets

Children refine pronunciation and use longer sentences to describe planets and information about the solar system.

Habitats

Pupils read and listen for detail, describe living things and places and present information using familiar structures.

Weather

Children understand forecasts, ask and answer questions and combine phrases to describe conditions in different places.

Clothes

Vocabulary, opinions and descriptions support adjective placement, agreement and more independent speaking and writing.

Vegetables

Children extend food language, express preferences and use familiar phrases in practical, conversational contexts.

My Home

Pupils describe rooms and objects in sentences and short paragraphs, adapting models and checking unfamiliar words.

Year 6

Phonetics 4 + At School

Children apply a mature sound–spelling understanding while describing subjects, opinions and school routines.

What Is the Date?

Pupils use days, months, numbers and questions to talk about dates, birthdays and calendar information.

Regular Verbs

Children recognise pronouns, stems and endings and use conjugated verbs to explain what different people do.

The Weekend

Longer, linked sentences help pupils sustain conversations and describe familiar experiences with greater fluency.

Healthy Lifestyles

Children combine food, activity and opinion language to discuss healthy choices orally and in writing.

Me in the World

Pupils present ideas about themselves and the wider world, drawing together vocabulary, culture, grammar and confidence.



AL LINKS

Connections across our French curriculum...

French connects with children's existing language knowledge, familiar experiences and wider curriculum so that new words and structures are purposeful and memorable.

1

Multilingual strengths

Many pupils already move between languages at home and school. French builds on their awareness that languages have different sounds and structures.

2

Stories and songs

Rhymes, songs, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks make sound patterns, repeated phrases and reading enjoyable and memorable.

3

Real situations

Tea-room role-play, classroom language, dates, school, weekends and healthy choices give pupils useful language for familiar contexts.

4

Across the curriculum

Planets, habitats, weather, shape and health create meaningful links with science, geography, mathematics and personal development.

5

French and English

Comparing sound, spelling, word order, gender, verbs and adjectives helps children notice how both languages work.

6

Culture and opportunity

Learning French develops respect for other cultures and confidence to study, work or learn further languages in the future.



Core language for joining in...

These high-utility French words and sentence stems help pupils listen, respond, ask questions and take part confidently. They are revisited and adapted across many units.

GREETINGS

bonjour
salut
au revoir
à bientôt
merci
s'il vous plaît
oui
non
ça va ?
ça va bien

QUESTION WORDS

qui ?
quoi ?
où ?
quand ?
comment ?
pourquoi ?
combien ?
quel / quelle ?

USEFUL RESPONSES

d'accord
peut-être
je ne sais pas
je comprends
je ne comprends pas
encore, s'il vous plaît
très bien

CLASSROOM WORDS

écoutez
regardez
répétez
lisez
écrivez
parlez
ouvrez
fermez
levez-vous
asseyez-vous

LINKING WORDS

et
mais
aussi
parce que
puis
après
avec
sans
très
assez

SPEAKING STEMS

Je m'appelle...
J'ai...
J'aime...
Je n'aime pas...
Je voudrais...
À mon avis...



How language learning builds over time...

Year Group	Strand	Building understanding	Building independence
Year 3	Speaking and listening	Familiar sounds, words and short phrases carry meaning	Join in, respond and exchange basic information using rehearsed language
	Reading, writing and grammar	Sound and spelling connect; nouns have gender	Recognise familiar words; read aloud; write simple words from memory or support
Year 4	Speaking	Questions and longer phrases extend communication	Ask and answer a wider range of questions; present short information
	Listening and reading	Key words can be located in instructions, songs and stories	Follow a text while listening; read familiar phrases and sentences accurately
	Writing and grammar	Articles depend on noun gender; verbs change form	Write familiar phrases and simple sentences; begin noticing fully conjugated verbs
Year 5	Speaking and listening	Sentences, opinions and intonation communicate more precise meaning	Take part in short conversations; understand longer passages and identify key detail
	Reading and writing	Different authentic formats share transferable language patterns	Read varied simple texts; write sentences and short paragraphs; check spellings
	Grammar	Pronouns and verb forms show who acts; adjectives add detail	Use first- and third-person verbs; begin applying adjective placement and agreement
Year 6	Spoken fluency	Connectives link ideas and authentic speed carries main points	Initiate and sustain simple conversations; present to an audience with expression
	Reading and writing	Main points and specific details can be inferred from varied texts	Read aloud accurately; write longer sentences and short paragraphs from memory or support
	Grammatical control	Pronouns, verb stems, endings, adjectives and agreement shape meaning	Select verb forms, plurals, connectives and adjective agreement with growing accuracy



HOME LINKS

French at home...

Listen little and often

Short songs, rhymes, stories or child-friendly French audio help children tune into sounds and rhythm. Repetition matters more than understanding every word.

Practise together

Use greetings, numbers, colours or food words in everyday routines. Let your child teach you a phrase and celebrate clear effort rather than perfect recall.

Read and notice

Look for French on packaging, maps, menus or signs. Ask what looks familiar, which sounds match the spelling and what meaning can be worked out from context.

Play with language

Play matching, memory or guessing games. Act out a café, family introduction, weather forecast or weekend conversation using familiar words and gestures.

Support confidence

Value speaking aloud and taking a risk. Let children connect French with English and home languages, notice similarities and differences, and correct themselves without embarrassment.

Useful questions

What does it sound like? Which word do you recognise? Can you say it in a sentence? How could you change the phrase? What helped you remember it? Can you teach me?