

Details of French École

At Friskney school we will be delivering French lessons to all children in Key Stage 2 from September 2005.

www.fromallaroundtheworld.co.uk is a Newark-based company specialising in French & Spanish for children aged 3-11 and is affiliated with The French École. Our teachers are often native French/Spanish qualified professionals and locally based. Lessons are varied and regularly updated, designed to build children's confidence and to encourage them to learn in a fun and imaginative way. The French École has been introducing children to the pleasure of learning for more than 8 years. The French École was established in 1997 in London and since then its popularity has grown and grown. Teaching over 4000 children in primary schools, nurseries and after-school clubs, its ethos is founded on quality and consistency.

We aim to introduce the pleasures of learning French & Spanish to children at an age where learning new words is natural and their appetite for knowledge is strong. We build solid foundations from which the children can enjoy the benefits of speaking another language as well as understanding and appreciating another culture.

We like to work closely with schools to create a harmonious and exciting learning environment for children. Where possible we will endeavour to provide sickness cover for an absent teacher as we understand this is an important factor.

- Our main aim has always to make the lessons fun, exciting, memorable, engaging, confidence building and to build on solid foundations for further study and development at Keystage 3.

There are four levels: Tadpoles (3 to 5 Years Old), Frogs (5 to 7 Years Old - Keystage 1), Little Toads (7 - 9 Years Old - Keystage 2) and Big Toads - 9 to 11 Years Old - Keystage 2). Each has its own learning objectives and outcomes

All of our pupils, whether they have just joined or been with us for a number of years, will gain a great deal from the French École lessons. Our proven methodology is based on 21 specially developed vocabulary themes (covering Reception to Year 6), which work in harmony with current Q.C.A. guidelines for the provision of modern foreign language teaching at Key Stage 2. Our lessons are designed so that new pupils can join the class during any stage and immediately begin learning and enjoying the activities, whilst at the same time pupils who have been with us longer are able to improve and develop their skills, build their confidence and progress with the language. Our lessons are based on a non-competitive, collaborative approach to learning with stronger pupils helping weaker pupils, with steady progression at all levels and ages.

In order to achieve the aims and objectives (above and below), our *tried and tested* lessons incorporate many diverse and established elements including specially chosen & developed games, stories, finger mimes, teamwork activities, songs, role-playing, established routines and a whole host

of other exciting activities. Our main focus (especially in the early stages) has always been on speaking and listening skills. Children who start learning French through 'speaking & listening' develop their language skills better, become more confident and have fewer inhibitions about making grammatical mistakes as the foremost objective is communicating. Later on and *gradually* we begin to introduce the children to certain grammatical notions as well as reading and writing skills. Overall, however, our focus remains on building confidence in speaking and listening.

A detailed end of year report is produced along standard guidelines, making it easy to see how each child has progressed by both head & parent.

A beautiful certificate with each child's name on, is produced upon the completion of the academic year and we encourage schools to hand these out at Presentation Day. For each class, we present one student with a French (or Spanish if Spanish is taught) book, who, chosen by the French teacher, has worked or tried the hardest. Again, we encourage this to be handed out at Presentation Day.

Teachers of the French École are provided with a large amount of resources and we do not expect our schools to have to buy extra materials although this is not to say that new items will not be utilised. Indeed, these items can be used during the rest of the week to reinforce the lesson. Our teachers will have puppets, books, flash cards, games and other resources relevant to the current terms theme and we are constantly purchasing more resources to keep our teachers producing their best. We believe in offering an excellent and thorough service, this means our schools have little to provide except photocopying, the desire to learn a language, suitable and comfortable facilities, the children and a regularly updated register and payment on time each term.

As each term has a theme, it is encouraged to have a table to put on relevant items brought in to learn the names in French or Spanish.

For more resources in over 100 languages see our bookshop at www.fromallaroundtheworld.co.uk French École students receive discount.

In line with our MFL policy, we encourage all children to put together a portfolio to keep together all completed work and materials of relevant interest. In time they can build up their portfolio and so by the time they are ready to move onto year 7, they will have a complete record of all their language learning work and will be able to give this to their new Secondary school language teacher. This will help both student and teacher enormously in the transition from Key Stage 2 to 3.

Aims and objectives

- We aim to encourage, nurture and develop an interest, appreciation and positive attitude towards to French language and a general awareness of cultural differences.
- We aim to develop an awareness of the need for languages as an important life-skill and the relevance of this in the multi-lingual, multi-cultural, modern world.
- We aim to help all children enjoy some degree of success and achievement with their language skills and develop useful and long-lasting language skills.

- We aim to foster self-determination and the notion that being wrong is not failing but a vital part of the overall learning process.
- We aim to develop, explore and introduce ideas of linguistic competence, differences in languages, and how knowledge of languages can open up future opportunities.
- We aim to promote positive attitudes towards language learning in general.
- We aim to encourage the development of ICT skills in relation to language learning and will be developing this further from September when a further lesson (30 minutes) will be available free online to schools contracted to French École curriculum. See also www.frenchecole.com for more activities.
- We aim to stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language learning.

A French École lesson

A typical French École lesson will run for 30 minutes. Generally, we prefer to split each class into 20 students or less and unless absolutely necessary to have children at desks, it is much preferred to sit children on the floor in a semi-circle. Parts of the lesson are very active.

For 30 minutes, one half of the class are taught by the French teacher. The other half of the class remain with the classroom assistant and, after consultation with the French teacher, complete work sheets and play related games. During the Autumn term, we will be developing an online site and schools using French École will have access to various online games and work. These are generally related to the week's topic or theme. Each week has a different lesson and each school term the theme of the lesson will change so that the children will never repeat the same topic.

Introduction	The children greet each other in French, take the register and talk about the weather, etc.
Finger Mimes	The children learn and practise the current term's new words and sentences
Puppets	The puppets are used to tell a story or act out a play based on the current theme and to help revise previous language already learnt
Songs	The children learn many different French songs
Theme	With flashcards and other visual materials, we practise the term's theme
Games	We play many different games with colours and shapes, with children interacting together using French
Stories	Stories are told using French books or magnetic storyboards
Worksheets	The children are given specially designed French worksheets to help them
Goodbye	The children always bid each other farewell in French

Je Peux

I can count up to, Je peux compter jusqu'à

At the end of each term 'Je Peux' sheet is in their 'end of term' pack. This sheet is to give them the opportunity to make a note of the different things they have acquired, such as how many 'theme' words and phrases they have learnt. There is also room to write down words they know, and for them to colour in appropriate thought bubbles. Once the sheet has been filled in, it can be added to their folder/portfolio along with certificates, reports, worksheets, vocabulary sheets and other items collected during their time with French École.

Parents tracking progress...

Feedback	Feedback is always constructive, focusing on improving understanding of French and interest in learning another language
Call us	We are happy to talk to parents and will provide you with telephone numbers should they wish to contact us
Certificates	Awarded to children on successful completion each year
Newsletter	We periodically send out newsletters keeping parents and schools up-to-date on the current events at The French Ecole as well as future activities
Vocabulary Sheets	We offer all children vocabulary sheets at the start of term, based on the current term's theme. This enables students to practise at home with parents

Materials

The French École is constantly updating its fantastic range of teaching materials and resources. Here are just a few of the things we use:

French/Spanish Books
French/Spanish Games
Colours
Maps

Flashcards
French/Spanish Videos
Story Boards
Numbers

French/Spanish Nursery Rhymes
French/Spanish Music
Shapes

Extract from our Ofsted report - Lincolnshire - May 2005

"...The teaching of French to all pupils from the nursery to Year 6 broadens the curriculum further. This is done very well by a specialist teacher, who uses a wide range of games and other activities, but with an appropriate emphasis on the accuracy of the language, for instance in the use of gender or adjectival agreement. Learning is supported well by class teachers, who make good use of opportunities to reinforce what is taught at other times, for instance using French weather

expressions in a geography lesson, or encouraging pupils to answer the register by saying how they are in French.

Children in nursery and the reception class respond very well to their lively French lessons, joining in with action songs enthusiastically, and quickly learning to count.

Numeracy skills are promoted well in other subjects. For instance, pupils were encouraged to use their tables to sort themselves into groups in a physical education lesson in Year 3. In a French lesson in Year 6 pupils were challenged to convert euros into pounds using the seven times tables...."

Extract from our Ofsted Report - London -Nov 2001

"...on the basis of the lessons observed, the quality of the teaching is excellent. The teacher made learning enjoyable, but without any compromise of standards.

She is an active French speaker and spoke at normal speed. Lessons were conducted in both French and English, with the teacher moving effortlessly from one to the other. The pace of lessons was brisk and involved constant repetition of words and phrases.

The use of various resources was outstanding. Puppets were used to great effect to introduce new words and phrases in a conversational context and a humorous way that appealed to the pupils. With the younger pupils, visual aids appeared from the teacher's voluminous bag like rabbits from a hat. A fan, gaudy sunglasses and a water-spray helped to introduce weather phrases. Joeys were produced from a kangaroo's pouch and all counted and recounted, with growing suspense, up to a total of 15.

With the older pupils, a variety of guessing and repetition games were used at a brisk pace to practise words and phrases, while exaggerated gesture, tone of voice and facial expression were used to convey the meaning of new vocabulary.

All pupils were fully involved in these exciting lessons. They listened intently and joined in the repetition sequences enthusiastically. All pupils, including SEN and EAL, made outstanding progress...."

The French École is actively involved in the promotion and development of modern foreign language learning at the Foundation stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.