

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

Curriculum Booklet 2026 - 2027

Subject Lead: Mrs M Baker

Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

MFL Curriculum Intent:

"Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things but learning another way to think about things." **Flora Lewis**

Our school, Pyrland, is placed on the outskirts of a predominantly white British market town in Somerset. Thus, our intention is for our students to develop the essential skills that will support them to become open-minded, confident, creative and successful life-long language learners, embracing diversity and cultural differences by finding out more about the world around them. Our curriculum aligns with the whole school curriculum focus on knowledge acquisition and ambition. Our curriculum enables students to develop:

- Confident communication and language skills, speaking and listening to each other using the target language
- Accurate listening skills with an emphasis on listening for specific details as well as for overall gist.
- Core vocabulary that will provide a solid foundation for language learning at KS3 and beyond.
- Reading skills that mirror our whole school reading routines and allow students to engage with a range of texts in the target language.
- Knowledge of tenses and key grammar essentials to enable students to express themselves accurately through both spoken and written French.
- An understanding and appreciation of the wider French-speaking world and their cultural similarities and differences.

Students at Pyrland School will develop the essential language-learning skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing in French so that by the end of Key Stage 3, students will be confident in understanding and producing language in at least three different tenses, they will be able to express opinions in a variety of ways and will show understanding of a range of texts written for different purposes and situations. Students will build on their existing English language knowledge to revisit key grammatical principles and recognise similarities between English and French, learning to recognise differences between the two languages, why things are different and why it matters.

Our carefully planned curriculum journey enables students to develop key skills such as attention to detail, critical thinking, comparison, logic and personal communication which will support both future study and employment opportunities. The topics covered during KS3 will prepare students for their GCSE studies at KS4, which in turn, provide a solid foundation for further study at A Level. Students should feel confident about choosing GCSE French, knowing that they will develop a secure understanding of the French grammar, vocabulary and skills required for their next steps.

MFL Curriculum Implementation:
All lessons will start with a Do Now task to support retrieval of prior learning and link in with previous lessons and homework tasks. All lessons contain carefully designed tasks that will develop the receptive language learning skills of listening and reading as well as giving students confidence with the productive skills of speaking and writing. These skills will form the basis of all formative and summative assessments throughout the year. Students will listen to a range of spoken French at near-normal speed and respond to a range of questions. They will read a variety of written texts following our Pyrland School universal reading strategies and will communicate to others through spoken and written French. Embedded within lessons is the grammar that underpins all language learning and enables students to communicate effectively in French.

Key Stage 3
Each year group has one higher ability, followed by mixed ability classes. Students learn new content as well as revisiting core grammar, tenses and transferrable vocabulary that will act as a foundation for new language acquisition throughout their learning journey. In addition to ongoing formative assessment, we conduct mid point reviews within each unit to respond to any gaps in knowledge or understanding and develop independent written skills. There is a formal, summative assessment at the end of each module that enables progress to be measured in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing/grammar) as each assessment will test both productive and receptive skills.

Students follow the new Kerboodle Connecte resources in year 7 and Pearson Dynamo resources in years 8 and 9. They build on their existing English language knowledge to revisit key grammatical principles and recognise similarities between English and French, whilst learning to recognise differences between the two languages, why things are different and why it matters.

Key Stage 4
At KS4, students follow the new AQA GCSE French 2-year course. This involves studying 9 modules across the two years that tie in with 3 key themes:

- Theme 1 involves people and lifestyles
- Theme 2 involves popular culture
- Theme 3 involves communication and the world around us.

Many of the topics have previously been introduced to some extent during KS3, giving students a solid foundation from which they can begin their KS4 studies. Students will either be entered for the foundation tier or higher tier examinations.

Allocated curriculum time: Lessons per fortnight

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
3	3	3	6	6

Year 7 Programme of Study

Term	Curriculum Foci	Formal Assessment
1	**Mon monde à moi (my world)** - French-speaking countries - Introducing yourself - Name, age, birthday - Physical & character descriptions	**Module 1** Reading assessment (15 marks) Speaking assessment (35 marks)
2	**Ma famille (family)** - Nationalities - Pets - Describing family members - Other people's ages/birthdays - Describing friends & role models	**Module 2:** Listening assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment (20 marks)
3	**Au collège (at school)** - Classroom language - Time - School subjects + opinions - School uniform and colours - School facilities	**Module 3:** Listening/ Reading assessment Total: 40 marks
4	**Ma vie (my life)** - Hobbies - Ball sports and other sports - Online activities - Going out	**Module 4:** Reading assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment (20 marks)
5	**En ville (In town)** - Meals - Town - exploring Paris - Saying where you live - Places in town - Weekend plans in town - Arranging to go out - Planning special weekends	**End of Year Assessment** Listening, reading & writing (100 marks)
6	**Speaking project - My town**	**Speaking assessment**

Year 8 Programme of Study

Term	Curriculum Foci	Formal Assessment
1	**Vive les vacances! (Holidays)** - Talking about school holidays - Introduction to the perfect tense with regular verbs - Introduction to the perfect tense using irregular verbs - Describing the places you have visited and what it was like - Saying where you went and what you did during the holidays	**Module 1** Listening assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment (20 marks)
2	**J'adore les fêtes! (Festivals and celebrations)** - Understanding dates - Giving opinions of different festivals/events - Studying a popular French festival (*la fête de la musique)* - Buying food at a market - Talking about favourite meals during special occasions - How other countries celebrate special occasions - The near future tense	**Module 2** Reading assessment (20 marks) Speaking assessment (20 marks)
3	**À loisir (Leisure & free time)** - Talking about types of TV programmes, films and actors - Describing digital technology and their opinions of it - Making plans to go out using 24-hour times - Talking about leisure activities - Describing a shopping trip using the perfect tense - Combining tenses to compare present vs past events	**Module 3** Listening assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment (20 marks)
4	**Le monde est petit (The world around us)** - Describing where people live - Describing what you can do in your region - Talking about the chores/jobs people must do at home - Describing daily routine using reflexive verbs - Combining tenses (past, present and future)	**Module 4** Reading assessment Listening assessment (20 marks)

5	**Le sport en direct (Sports)** - Talking about sports that you play/do - Giving opinions of different sporting activities - Asking for and understanding directions to places in town - Recognising parts of the body, injuries and illnesses - Giving advice to get better	**End of Year Assessment** Listening, reading & writing
6	**Cultural study: Tour de France** - In depth study of the Tour de France	**Speaking assessment**

Year 9 Programme of Study

Term	Curriculum Foci	Formal Assessment
1	**Mon monde à moi (My world)** - Talking about likes & dislikes - Extracurricular activities - Describing yourself and your friends - Describing past birthday celebrations - Saying what you did and what you wore	**Module 1** Reading assessment (20 marks) Speaking assessment (20 marks)
2	**Projets d'avenir (Future plans and careers)** - Talking about ways to earn money - Positives and negatives of different jobs - Making future plans - Saying what you did yesterday - Talking about ways of making money	**Module 2** Listening assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment
3	**Ma vie en musique (My life in music)** - Describing songs and musical instruments - Musical preferences - Using comparatives - Describing future plans - Describing a trip to a concert - Using the present and perfect tenses together	**Module 3** Reading assessment (20 marks) Listening assessment (20 marks)
4	**Le meilleur des mondes (The world around us)** - Talking about food - Talking about eating habits and preferences - Animals and the natural world - Discussing environmental issues - Talking about ways to protect the environment - Using the conditional tense to say what you would do to help	**Module 4** Reading assessment (20 marks) Writing assessment (20 marks)
5	**Le monde francophone (The French-speaking world)** - Talking about countries you would like to visit - Describing famous monuments around the world - Holiday activities - Cultural study of the French-speaking world	**End of Year Assessment** Listening, Reading & Writing
6	**Cultural study: The geography of the French-speaking world** - In depth study of the French-speaking world, its history and traditions of each country	**Speaking assessment**

Year 10 GCSE French Programme of Study
Exam Board: AQA
Exam Specification: 8652

Term	Curriculum Foci	Formal Assessment
1 **Theme 1 Unit 1**	**Identity and relationships with others** - Introducing yourself - Personality descriptions - Family relationships - Different types of families - Friends and Friendship - Future plans for partners	Read aloud task and follow up questions on topic covered and exam style reading tasks
2 **Theme 1 Unit 2**	**Healthy living and lifestyle** - Food preferences - Health problems and addictions - Lifestyle choices and habits - Recent activities	**Extended Writing** on topic covered and exam style listening tasks
3 **Theme 1 Unit 3**	**Education and work** - School and School rules - Studies post-16 - Describing jobs - Jobs in the creative industries - Work experience	Extended exam style reading and listening tasks on Theme 1
4 **Theme 2 Unit 1**	**Free time activities** - Hobbies and sports - TV, cinema and music - Leisure activities in the past - Plans for leisure activities - Leisure activities around the world	**Extended Writing** on topic covered and exam style grammar and translation tasks
5 **Theme 2 Unit 2**	**Customs, festivals and celebrations** - Birthdays and special days	**End of Year 10 Exam** 1 full GCSE style paper at foundation level for Listening, Reading and Writing

	- Customs and celebrations - Describing popular festivals in the past - Describing recent and future festival plans	
6 **Theme 2 Unit 3**	**Celebrity culture** - Becoming famous - Abilities and achievements - Pros and Cons of being famous - Famous French-speaking celebrities	**Speaking Exam** 1 x role play 1 x read aloud task and follow up questions 1 x photo card 3-7 minutes general conversation

Year 11 GCSE French Programme of Study
Exam Board: AQA
Exam Specification: 8652

Term	Curriculum Foci	Formal Assessment
1 **Theme 3** **Unit 1**	**Travel and Tourism** Revision of past, present and future tenses Usual holidays Describing towns/tourist destinations Past holidays Future holiday destinations	Grammar gap fill and Translation into TL Testing content from Year 10 and tenses
2 **Theme 3** **Unit 2**	**Media and Technology** Activities online Life before and after the internet Phones, apps and dangers of technology Past, Present and Future use of technology	**GCSE Mock Exam 1** 1 Full GCSE Paper for Listening, Reading and Writing Tiers to be decided at this stage for individual pupils (Higher or Foundation tier).
3 **Theme 3** **Unit 3**	**The environment and where people live** Environmental problems and local environment Ways of helping environment Describing your house and recent activities at home Describing your town Positive and negatives of towns and ideal town	Grammar gap fill and Translation into TL Testing content from Year 10 and Year 11 and tenses
4	**Revision of Themes 1-3** Preparation for GCSE listening, reading and writing exams (May-June)	**GCSE Mock Exam 2** 1 Full GCSE Paper for Listening, Reading and Writing Mock Speaking Exam
5	**GCSE French Speaking exams (see below for structure)** **GCSE exams – Listening, Reading & Writing**	Final GCSE Speaking exam. Due to take place in April/May before formal exams start.

Final GCSE Assessment Structure:

Component	Weighting (%)	Content	Proposed Examination Date
Listening 8652	25%	**Paper 1 – Listening (F/H)** Section A: Listening comprehension: Students will listen to people speaking in French and will answer a series of questions either in French or English Section B: Dictation: Students will listen to a sentence and write exactly what the speaker has said in French	June (summer exam series)
Speaking 8652	25%	**Paper 2 – Speaking (F/H)** Part 1: Role play Part 2: Reading aloud task Part 3: Photo card task/conversation	April/May (prior to start of formal examinations)
Reading 8652	25%	**Paper 3 – Reading (F/H)** Section A: Students will read a range of texts written in French and will respond in English. Section B: Translation of sentences from French into English	June (summer exam series)
Writing 8652	25%	**Paper 4 – Writing (F/H)** Photo task (Foundation) Writing task (50 words – Foundation) Grammar task (Foundation) English to French translation Extended writing task (90 words) Extended writing task (150 words - Higher)	June (summer exam series)

Please see exam board websites for up-to-date information:
(AQA | French | GCSE | GCSE French)