Languages Curriculum: Cultural Overview

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. Understanding and learning about the culture of a country, from which the language pupils are learning originates, helps them to broaden their knowledge of that language.

This can also help to intrinsically foster a love of languages, whereby pupils understand the benefit to their learning in later life, including: academically, economically and to their well-being. These cultural lessons are taught to pupils over the academic year. They are revisited and revised regularly during language lessons to ensure a retention of knowledge. Learning about the culture of another country should support pupils in better understanding British Values and where pupils' own culture has shared or differing values to the nation being studied.

Pupils are taught to understand that not everyone who lives within the country being studied necessarily shares, practices or believes in every aspect of the nation's cultural identity.

Language: **French** *Country:* **France**

Year Group	Cultural Focus	Rationale
Reception	**France (start of unit and/or to link with geography unit)** Identifying France on a globe Identifying different languages.	Develop geographical awareness of France in Reception ready for more in depth learning throughout Key Stage 1 and 2.
Year 1	**Noël – Le Réveillon (Autumn 2)** How it is celebrated / food eaten and French custom.	The most known celebration for Year 1 which teaches the cultural similarities and differences between countries, providing further opportunity to extend and embed RE curriculum learning.
	La Chandeleur (Spring 2) Pancake day	Uses the known celebration of Pancake Day to compare and contrast cultures hence developing intercultural understanding.
Year 2	**Pâques (2nd February)** Easter - how it is celebrate	Builds on existing knowledge of Easter celebrations in the UK by comparing it with Easter celebrations in France, providing further opportunity to extend and embed RE curriculum learning.
	Fêtes de la musique (21st June) National Music Festival	Shares an annual celebration in France, reflecting the music curriculum alongside an opportunity to explore how music is a large part of every society.
Year 3	**Épiphanie (Spring 1, 6th January)** La galette des rois	Extends existing knowledge of Christmas, giving pupils a more in depth knowledge of the religious aspect of French Catholic culture.
	Landmarks (timings to fit around Geography curriculum) Le Champs Elysées, Tour Eiffel, Notre Dame, Eurostar, Mont St Michel, Mont Blanc	Links to Year 3 geography curriculum to allow exploration of historic and cultural aspects of French physical and human landmarks.
Year 4	**Mardis Gras (Spring 1)**	Revisits and deepens knowledge of Easter celebrations by looking at the carnivals that take place throughout many countries in the build up to lent.
	Le Tour de France (Summer 2)	Links to geography and PE curricula to show the importance of competition and sport within French society. The race is open to global competitors and is a shared cultural event with stages in several European countries.
Year 5	**Bastille Day (Summer 2 – 14th July)** Traditions and shared celebrations	Introduces Year 5 to the national celebration of Bastille Day, focusing on the historical background and traditions throughout France.
	Café Culture (Spring 1)	An opportunity to apply learning from the "Au café" unit in Year 4. Several links are made with music, poetry and writers to give the pupils a true aspect of French daily routine.
Year 6	**Bastille Day (Summer 2 – 14th July)** Liberté, égalité, fraternité (freedom, equality, fraternity)	Deepens learning from Year 5 to explore the notion of the French Republic and its birth. An opportunity to visit British Values and compare them with French.
	Le Mans 24 heures (Summer 2)	Another insight into a sporting event staged in France but open to a global community. Broadens the D&T and history curricula by looking at technological advances since the race started in 1920s.