

## Global Learning and Primary Languages: French

At the Ribblesdale Federation, we believe that learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils.

It helps pupils to develop communication skills including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works.

We teach French from Class 2 and enjoy learning about French language and culture. This is also experienced through food on “Round the World Wednesdays”, where children experience food from different cultures and countries.

We aim to foster an interest in languages in an enjoyable and accessible way to stimulate their curiosity and support oracy skills, in particular, speaking and listening. It also provides children with a different perspective on language and develops their awareness of cultural similarities and differences.

Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others, linking to Global Learning.

Through intercultural understanding, children will learn to understand the lives of the children in the countries where French is spoken and identify similarities and differences in every day life and celebrations. We can also recognise how aspects of the culture of different countries becomes incorporated in the daily lives of others.

Children will also learn to recognise and mistrust stereotypes, and to understand and respect cultural diversity. It is important to be aware of “difference” in a positive way. To know that there are other ways to live and behave which are valid, despite not being the same as the one that the child knows at home. It’s important to recognise that there are certain basic, fundamental truths that are common to our humanity, such as the need for honesty, trust and mutual respect in order for us all to live together in harmony. This links to our school values as a Federation.

Through Global Learning, we aim to encourage pupils to become critical thinkers and develop in-depth knowledge of their world. This allows children to assess their own individual values, roles in society and learn how they affect others. Our goal is to help children understand their own rights and responsibilities as citizens to promote equality and change.

By familiarising pupils with global issues and ideas of sustainability, development and globalisation, we can promote an awareness of poverty, but also think in terms of social justice rather than charity.

Since the implementation of Global Learning, the school has also joined the British Council’s Connecting Classrooms programme. We have formed a cluster of 6 schools – three here at home, and three in India.

We have been granted funding by the British Council to work on this project and have completed a number of mini projects so that the children here and in India can learn about each other’s cultures. This has had a positive impact on our children, who are excited to work together and look forward to receiving projects from India to see what else they can learn.