



The Cornerstone Academy

French Curriculum



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The Cornerstone Academy French Curriculum for Years 7-11

The Cornerstone Academy French Curriculum is studied by all students in Key stage 3.

At Key Stage 4 option students study the Edexcel French course.

1. Intent of the French curriculum

The purpose of the French curriculum at The Cornerstone Academy is to ensure that your child gets the opportunities to develop and practice their knowledge of French, whilst following an engaging and culturally enriching curriculum plan that incorporates the different skills required for learning a Modern Foreign Language, Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. The curriculum plan for KS3 follows the national curriculum plan for Languages. The curriculum incorporates grammar and vocabulary as well as linguistic competence. Students will, in their lessons, use the 4 skills assessed to improve their knowledge and communication in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Students will study different topic areas as well as authentic materials and literature to enhance their cultural awareness.

The ambition is for all students to achieve the expectations outlined in the curriculum. That is, all pupils are taught the full content of the curriculum and that all pupils are taught to achieve the key performance indicators by the end of key stage 3. Mastery means that pupils should be able to recall and apply what they have learnt at another point in the future rather than just at the time they first meet an idea or technique. Achievements through the year contribute to evidence of mastery by the end of the year. Re-visiting this key knowledge via retrieval practice throughout the course can provide opportunities to:

- demonstrate mastery
- address any gaps in learning
- widen and deepen learning as pupils apply their knowledge in a different context within French.

At KS4 students will follow the Edexcel scheme of learning and the curriculum knowledge from Key stage 3 will be built upon. At KS4 students are assessed using knowledge tests (self-quizzing) and summative assessments based on GCSE past papers and specimen papers.



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2. Implementation of the French Curriculum

KS3 French is taught in 100 minutes per week for the three-year groups across years 7, 8 and 9. KS4 French is an option GCSE and students have 3 x 50-minute lessons per week.

The French curriculum at The Cornerstone Academy is implemented according to the teaching and learning policy of the school. Rosenshine and Teach like a champion technique are the basis of the schools teaching and learning practice. Staff will follow dedicated schemes of work to ensure that all students follow the Cornerstone Academy French curriculum.

All lessons at each key stage should use quizzing to promote recall, retention, application, and mastery of content. Students will have knowledge organisers with key subject content and key vocabulary which will be set for homework. This low-stake assessment for learning will be used by staff to inform their planning and class interventions.

Modelling should be used frequently with the aid of visualisers to guide student practice and improve the quality of student response.

The units covered throughout the curriculum:

Y7 units	Y8 units	Y9 units
• Me and my family • Sports and hobbies • My school • Where I live	• School and plans for the future • Going out and staying in • Daily routine, Health, and fitness • Holidays	• Relationships with family and friends • Festivals and traditions • Visiting French speaking countries • The world around me



Y10 units	Y11 units
• Topic 1; Lifestyle, media and Technology • Topic 2; My personal World • Topic 3; Lifestyle and Wellbeing • Topic 4; Studying and my future	• Topic 1; Travel & Tourism • Topic 2; My neighbourhood • Preparation for the speaking exam and revision of the whole course

3. Stretch and Challenge for Grammar Stream Students in French.

In Year 7, grammar stream students are stretched by moving rapidly away from word-for-word translation and into independent structural assembly. They are introduced to full verb paradigms early on, learning how to manipulate regular *-er*, verbs across all six pronouns. They are challenged to treat the language like a puzzle, using structural formulas to generate their own sentences from scratch. Year 7 pupils are encouraged to decode the meaning of unfamiliar words through context clues, cognates, and known grammatical patterns.

During Year 8, the focus shifts to achieving three tense fluidity by the end of the year. Grammar stream students are pushed beyond the present tense and future tense to master the more complex *passé composé* (including *être* auxiliary verbs). Pupils are routinely challenged to "upgrade" basic French descriptions by adding advanced structures, such as modal verbs (*je veux/je peux*), and intensifying adverbs.

By Year 9, Grammar Stream students are stretched using complex structures that bridge the gap toward GCSE. Students are introduced to high-level syntax including the imperfect tense, infinitive structures such as “Je viens de” and impersonal structures such as “il est important de.” Students are well prepared for the new GCSE course with regular reading aloud, and picture description practice.

4. Impact of the French Curriculum

By the end of Key Stage 3 students will be operating as learners with a high degree of independence and an excellent foundation in their chosen language (or languages). This will help these pupils achieve the highest levels in the new GCSE examinations. They will have a systematic knowledge of the vocabulary, grammar, and the sound and spelling systems of their new language. They will have had the opportunity to reinforce this knowledge with extensive planned practice to build the skills needed for communication. They will have a love of languages and will want to continue to develop their language skills, seeing these as important for lifelong learning.

By the end of Key Stage 4 students will have had the benefit of following a program of study which is carefully tailored to build on and revise key knowledge and grammar covered in KS3, meaning that there is a deeper understanding of the content studied. The development of phonics and pronunciation is also a key part of the course. Students will develop a more independent approach to language learning which will help them to gain valuable insight into the language, culture, and people of target language speaking countries. Students will become confident in discussing their use of technology, giving opinions on healthy living, and talking about their future plans. They will also study environmental issues and be able to say what they do to protect the environment. This knowledge will allow students to become responsible and forward-thinking citizens of the world.