

SUSI EARNSHAW THEATRE SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy: Modern Foreign Languages

One modern foreign language is taught, in Year 7 and Year 8 only. As a theatre school, SETS places a strong emphasis on vocational study. The school's Academic Curriculum focuses centrally on the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, but SETS does teach as wide an academic range as possible with a view to equipping pupils with a certain breadth of knowledge and skills, hence also teaching several other subjects at Keystage 3.

The modern language currently taught at SETS is French.

No foreign language lessons are timetabled from Year 9 onwards. However, students showing sufficient aptitude in French may prepare for GCSE French outside the timetabled hours, and sit the appropriate examinations in our centre.

For specific details of topics and activities taught on the French Curriculum at SETS, please see the Schemes of Work for French.

Lessons and Homework

As modern languages are not a core subject in our school, and as students generally receive one 45 minute lesson in this subject per week, the emphasis is more on providing fun, useful and stimulating activities which the student will find memorable and practically helpful than on teaching grammatical precision. Homework will usually be either to research and collate new vocabulary online using a translation website, to learn a short list of key vocabulary words, or exercises or other activities which practise an area of language which has been taught in class. Traditional and other French songs are also incorporated into lessons; this proves both enjoyable for the students and beneficial to learning. The learning of vocabulary is generally tested orally in the next lesson. However, written tests are also set periodically, in order to consolidate the learning of written as well as spoken French.

Use of Information Technology

Translation websites will be used in class and, where appropriate, for homework, as may other online language resources and activities from time to time.

Principal Aims

The principal aims of our policy are:

- To teach and train our students in a stimulating manner, with the clear view of equipping them with basic skills in French, which will be of practical use to them should they visit the country or need to communicate in French in the future.

- To make the lessons memorable and enjoyable, with activities such as learning popular and traditional French songs, which enables the students to use one of their vocational skills (singing) in an academic subject, whilst also learning about French culture. To encourage students to learn to talk about their favourite vocational activities, such as singing, dancing and acting.
- To promote and encourage at all stages an interest in other languages and cultures and, where appropriate, in their relationships with our own.
- To show the richness and diversity of different languages, and remind students that many different languages are spoken in the world.
- To encourage a fascination with the quirks of language, and the different grammatical ways in which different languages may express the same idea.

Susi Earnshaw Theatre School
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