

French – Year 8

Curriculum Intent

In Year 8, French builds on the secure phonics and grammatical foundations established in Year 7, developing greater accuracy, complexity and independence in language use. Students deepen their understanding of how French works through continued phonics-led instruction, expansion of verb knowledge and more sophisticated sentence structures. Across the year, students strengthen listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, moving towards more extended responses and confident manipulation of language in a range of contexts.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Phonics Refinement, Questions and Description

Students continue to refine their understanding of French phonics, revisiting key sound–spelling correspondences and learning new patterns, including liaison and stress. They develop confidence forming questions using intonation, inversion and *est-ce que*, and apply this to structured speaking and writing tasks. Grammar focuses on adjective agreement, gender patterns and describing people, places and celebrations. Cultural learning introduces francophone places, festivals and public celebrations.

Autumn and Spring Terms – Tenses, Articles and Past Experiences

Students extend their grammatical range by comparing present and perfect tenses, forming past participles and using *avoir* accurately. They explore partitive articles (*du, de la, des*) and learn how articles change in negative constructions. Vocabulary and grammar are applied to talking about food, free time, daily routines and past events, with increasing attention to accuracy and sentence adaptation.

Spring Term – Irregular Verbs, Possession and Sentence Control

Students learn to use a wider range of irregular verbs in the present tense, including *prendre, venir, sortir* and *dire*. They develop understanding of possessive adjectives and adjective position, enabling more detailed descriptions. Reading and listening activities increase in length and complexity, supporting comprehension for both gist and detail.

Spring and Summer Terms – Plural Forms, Pronouns and Extended Use of Language

Students study plural noun and adjective patterns and learn to use subject pronouns including *nous, vous, ils* and *elles*. They work with *-re* verbs such as *lire* and *écrire* and apply adverb placement accurately. Students learn to use the present tense to refer to future meaning and continue to refine question formation. Cultural learning includes French cities, literature and film, supporting wider cultural awareness.

Summer Term – Consolidation and Fluency Development

The year concludes with consolidation of phonics, grammar and core vocabulary. Students apply learning to longer speaking and writing tasks, focusing on fluency, accuracy and independence. Regular practice supports confidence in manipulating language and preparing for increased challenge in Year 9.
