

German – Year 7

Curriculum Intent

In Year 7, German introduces students to the language through a carefully sequenced, phonics-led curriculum that prioritises accurate pronunciation, secure grammatical foundations and precise sentence construction. Students develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills alongside an understanding of how German works as a highly structured language. The curriculum builds cumulatively across the year, moving from simple sentence formation towards greater grammatical control and independence, providing a strong foundation for continued language learning in Years 8 and 9.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Phonics, Articles and Core Verbs

Students begin by developing secure knowledge of German phonics, focusing on sound–spelling correspondences, vowel length and distinctive German sounds. They learn to recognise and pronounce new sounds accurately and apply this knowledge to reading and spelling. Alongside phonics, students are introduced to key grammatical concepts, including noun gender, definite and indefinite articles and subject pronouns. Core verbs such as *sein* and *haben* are introduced in the present tense, enabling students to describe people, objects and simple situations. Students also learn how to form basic questions and express negation using *nicht* and *kein*.

Autumn and Spring Terms – Verbs, Plurals and Sentence Building

Students extend their grammatical understanding through present tense weak verbs and begin to distinguish between singular and plural forms. They learn how plural nouns are formed in German and how articles change accordingly. Students develop confidence using pronouns and begin to manipulate model sentences to create new meanings. Vocabulary learning is carefully structured and supported through regular retrieval, enabling students to talk about themselves and others with increasing accuracy. Cultural learning includes traditions such as Christmas in Germany and authentic songs and texts.

Spring Term – Opinions, Object Pronouns and Modal Verbs

Students develop the ability to express opinions and preferences using verbs such as *mögen* and *finden*. They learn to use object pronouns accurately and to recognise the relationship between nouns and pronouns within sentences. Modal verbs, including *können*, are introduced, allowing students to express ability and limitation. Sentence word order is reinforced, and students practise forming and answering questions with increasing fluency.

Spring and Summer Terms – Word Order, Prepositions and Daily Life

Students deepen their understanding of German sentence structure, focusing on verb-second word order in statements and verb–subject inversion in questions. They learn to use prepositions such as *in* and *auf* to describe movement and location and apply this to talking about daily routines and places. Students work with possessive adjectives and a wider range of verbs, developing longer spoken and written responses. Cultural learning includes German-speaking regions such as Berlin and Namibia.

Summer Term – Future Meaning and Extended Communication

Towards the end of the year, students learn how to express future intentions using the present tense with time adverbials. They compare what they usually do with plans for the future and develop greater independence in adapting language. Phonics, grammar and vocabulary are consolidated through extended listening, reading and writing tasks, including engagement with film and literary texts such as *Ostwind*.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment in Year 7 focuses on phonics accuracy, vocabulary recall, grammatical understanding and the ability to construct accurate sentences. By the end of the year, students can understand and produce simple spoken and written German, apply key grammatical structures accurately and approach new language with confidence, providing a strong foundation for Year 8 German.