

French Curriculum Map

KS3 and KS4



Co-op Academy
Florence MacWilliams

The French curriculum at Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams opens the door to the richness and diversity of the French-speaking world. During their French learning journey, students develop their language skills, deepen their cultural understanding, and become more curious about the world around them. By exploring the history, traditions, and contemporary life of France and the wider Francophone world, students become open-minded, culturally aware learners who are well prepared to contribute positively to an increasingly interconnected world.

Our curriculum is:

- Ambitious and knowledge-rich, ensuring that every student, regardless of background or starting point, develops the vocabulary, grammar, phonics and cultural understanding needed to become confident, resilient and independent language learners. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to communicate authentically whilst fostering a lifelong appreciation of languages.
- Carefully sequenced so that students build secure foundations in phonics, vocabulary, and grammar before applying this knowledge with increasing sophistication across the four key language skills of speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Knowledge is broken down into manageable components, enabling students to revisit, refine, and master the language over time.

- Underpinned by cognitive science, recognising the importance of retrieval practice, interleaving, and reducing cognitive load. Frequent retrieval of vocabulary and grammatical structures enables students to develop fluency, automaticity, and long-term retention, allowing them to communicate with increasing confidence and accuracy.
- Driven by authentic communication, where language is learned as a tool for meaningful interaction rather than isolated knowledge. Students explore real-world contexts and authentic materials, enabling them to understand how language reflects culture, history and society whilst developing the confidence to express their own ideas and opinions.
- Rich in cultural capital, exposing students to the diversity of the Francophone world beyond France itself. Through literature, film, music, art, cuisine, festivals, historical events and contemporary issues from countries across Europe, Africa, North America and the Caribbean, students develop an appreciation of the breadth and influence of French-speaking cultures and understand the value of multilingualism in modern society.
- Designed to foster curiosity, resilience and global citizenship, encouraging students to embrace new perspectives, challenge stereotypes and develop empathy through intercultural understanding. Students recognise that learning a language is not simply about speaking another tongue, but about opening doors to new opportunities, cultures and ways of thinking.
- Designed to equip students with the linguistic confidence, cultural awareness and transferable skills that support success across the curriculum and prepare them for future study and employment.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
7	<u>Ma famille et moi</u> (My family and I) French is one of the world's most widely spoken languages. In this unit, students will begin their language journey by learning essential meet and greet vocabulary and will start speaking French from their very first lesson. Students will learn to talk about themselves and their family using a wide variety of vocabulary and will begin forming simple sentences using core first person verbs. Students will build strong foundations for their future language journey and will use spoken and written French with increasing confidence.	<u>Ma vie active</u> (My active life) Active and healthy lifestyles are an important part of our community values. In this unit, students will learn to express opinions about a range of sports and activities while discussing their own active lifestyles. They will explore French sporting traditions, including the popular game of <i>la pétanque</i>. While continuing to develop confidence with first person sentences, students will extend their knowledge to second and third person singular verb forms to describe other people's sporting habits.	<u>Mon collègue</u> (My school) Education and school life are an integral part of every young person's life. In this unit, students will learn to describe school facilities and express their opinions on school subjects. They will revisit previously learned opinion verbs and adjectives while extending their language to justify and develop their views in greater depth. Students will advance their knowledge by using the near future tense in the first person to talk about their future learning plans and aspirations.
8	<u>Les fêtes</u> (Festivals) Festivals play an important role in celebrating our multicultural society. In this unit, students will learn to talk about a wide variety of festivals and customs from different cultures, including traditional French celebrations like <i>la fête des Rois</i>. They will build a secure understanding of infinitive phrases with a wide variety of verbs to describe traditional festive activities, and will extend their existing knowledge of the near future tense by using first, second, and third person singular verbs.	<u>La technologie et les médias</u> (Technology and Media) Technology is an increasingly prominent part of modern life. In this unit, students will learn to describe different devices and discuss how they use technology online in everyday situations. They will also revisit giving and justifying opinions and consolidate the near future tense to communicate with greater confidence and accuracy. Students will develop critical thinking by exploring the advantages and disadvantages of technology, particularly the impact of social media on young people.	<u>La région locale</u> (The local region) The local area is a fundamental part of our community identity. In this unit, students will learn to describe different living environments and a variety of geographical features within their own region and beyond. They will learn to use irregular adjectives, enabling them to describe places and geographical features in greater detail and with increased precision. Students will also be introduced to the past tense and will use regular and irregular first-person verbs to describe recent activities in their region.
9	<u>Le travail</u> (Work) Employment and career aspirations are vital for students to consider at this stage of their journey. In this unit, students will learn to describe jobs and work routines. They will revisit the past and future tenses when discussing experiences and plans, alongside learning more complex sentence structures. Students will extend their knowledge by discussing work within celebrity culture, and will enhance their cultural awareness by learning about French celebrities and their influence.	<u>La vie saine</u> (Healthy living) Healthy living is a crucial part of our community values. In this unit, students will learn vocabulary related to healthy living, including diet, exercise, and lifestyle habits, while developing their ability to discuss everyday choices and routines. They will learn to express opinions and will be introduced to expressions of obligation to describe what people ought to do to live healthily and make positive lifestyle changes. Students will also explore cultural habits and attitudes towards health in different French-speaking countries.	<u>Les problèmes mondiaux</u> (Global problems) It is vital for students to develop an understanding of the world around them. In this unit, students will explore environmental and social issues that affect both their local community and Francophone regions. They will learn to discuss these topics in greater depth, explain their causes, and propose solutions using expressions of obligation and modal verbs. Students will also consolidate their use of the present, past, and future tenses, effectively preparing them for the next stage of their French learning journey.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
10	<u>L'identité et les relations</u> (Identity and relationships) In this unit, students will revisit describing themselves, their family, friendships, and future plans. They will develop their ability to give physical and personality descriptions, express justified opinions on relationships and marriage, and discuss their childhood experiences. Students will extend their grammatical knowledge by using a range of structures, including possessive adjectives, comparisons, and reflexive verbs.	<u>Les activités de temps libre</u> (Free time activities) In this unit, students will express opinions on a wide variety of free-time activities. They will describe recent experiences and future plans, while extending their use of comparisons and justified opinions. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by using a range of structures, including different present tense verbs, the perfect tense, near future, adjective agreements and prepositions.	<u>L'éducation et les projets d'avenir</u> (Education and future plans) In this unit, students will learn to describe their learning environment, express justified opinions on school life and discuss their future aspirations. They will develop their ability to compare ideas and use a wider range of structures to discuss rules, expectations and possibilities. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting present tense verbs, expanding their use of adjectives, and applying a variety of infinitive structures.	<u>Où vivent les gens</u> (Where people live) In this unit, students will learn to describe where they live, discuss their local area and express opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of different places. They will develop their ability to describe past and present environments, discuss possibilities and express future preferences. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting present and past tense structures which applying conditional structures.	<u>La culture populaire</u> (Popular culture) In this unit, students will discuss celebrity culture and technology, and the impact they have on modern life. They will develop their ability to describe public figures, express preferences, and justify opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of fame, technology, and social media. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting a range of tenses, expanding their use of pronouns and comparatives, and gaining confidence with conditional and infinitive structures.	<u>Les célébrations</u> (Celebrations) In this unit, students will revisit festivals and cultural traditions in French-speaking communities. They will develop their ability to describe personal celebrations, past experiences, and future preferences, while expressing justified opinions on different customs and traditions. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting present and past tense structures, negative forms, and applying conditional and hypothetical structures.
11	<u>Le voyage et le tourisme</u> (Travel and tourism) In this unit, students will learn to discuss holidays, travel experiences and future plans. They will develop their ability to describe preferences, narrate past experiences and challenges, and express justified opinions through comparatives. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting perfect and imperfect tenses, expanding their use of pronouns, and applying future and infinitive structures.	<u>Les modes de vie sains</u> (Healthy lifestyles) In this unit, students will revisit health, lifestyle choices, and ways to improve wellbeing. They will expand on their ability to describe habits, give advice, and express justified opinions on healthy and unhealthy choices. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by revisiting present and past tense structures, expanding their use of negative and modal verbs, and applying future and infinitive structures.	<u>L'environnement</u> (The environment) In this unit, students will learn to discuss environmental issues and the actions needed to protect the planet. They will develop their ability to describe personal choices, suggest solutions, and express justified opinions about environmental responsibility. Students will strengthen their grammatical knowledge by comparing present and imperfect structures, and applying conditional, participle, and advice structures.	In this final unit, students will consolidate their knowledge to prepare for their upcoming AQA examinations. Students will sit the following examinations: - Speaking (normally after Easter and before the main exam window) - Writing - Reading and Listening Students will revisit key vocabulary and grammatical structures and will revise a wide range of tenses and structures in depth, strengthening their ability to apply them accurately, confidently, and creatively across different contexts. Students will continue to develop their core skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening through focused practice, allowing them to recognise their progress and celebrate the breadth of their achievements in French. This unit will empower students to approach their exams with confidence, ambition, and a belief in their ability to succeed. By mastering the foundations of the language and developing greater independence, students will be equipped not only for examination success but also for the exciting challenge of progressing towards advanced-level French and continuing their journey as confident linguists.		



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At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, colleagues and pupils work at 'PACE' ensuring pride, ambition, care, and excellence for self, school and city