French: KS2 Progression of Knowledge and Skills

End points

End of lower KS2 (Year 4)

Pupils can understand and use familiar French words, questions and short phrases about themselves and everyday topics. They can join in simple exchanges, read and write supported sentences, recognise common pronunciation patterns and begin to notice how French differs from English.

End of upper KS2 (Year 6)

Pupils can listen and respond to familiar spoken French, participate in short conversations, express simple opinions, read short texts and write connected sentences using learned language. They can apply familiar pronunciation and grammar patterns, use reference tools and demonstrate curiosity about French-speaking cultures, providing a foundation for Key Stage 3.

Year / programme	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 3 · French 1	Greetings, goodbyes, how are you?	Name; Christmas greeting	Alphabet; family	Numbers 0–12; ages	Brothers and sisters	Pets
Year 4 · French 1	Colours	Months of the year	Numbers 13–31; birthday	Days of the week; today's date	Weather	Assessment
Year 5 · French 2	Where do you live? Places in town	Directions	School and classroom objects	What's the time?	More about weather	Numbers 40–200
Year 6 · French 2	The euro; paying for shopping	What you like to eat; enjoy your meal	Ice cream; leisure activities	What is your favourite lesson?	What are you wearing?	Assessment

Progression by National Curriculum strand

Strand	Year 3 · French 1	Year 4 · French 1	Year 5 · French 2	Year 6 · French 2
Listening and understanding	Recognise familiar greetings, names and simple classroom language; respond to supported questions and instructions.	Understand familiar questions and phrases about colours, dates, numbers and weather; identify key information in short spoken exchanges.	Follow simple directions and understand key information about places, classroom items, time and weather; use context to work out meaning.	Understand short conversations about shopping, food, leisure, subjects and clothes; identify detail and respond appropriately.
Speaking and interaction	Use greetings, give name, say how they feel and share simple facts about family, age and pets using rehearsed phrases.	Ask and answer simple questions about colours, dates, birthdays and weather; extend a response with a short phrase.	Ask and answer where someone lives; give simple directions; discuss school objects, time and weather with increasing fluency.	Take part in short role-plays about purchases, food preferences and leisure; ask follow-up questions and express simple opinions.

Pronunciation and phonics	Imitate modelled French sounds, rhythms and intonation; pronounce familiar words and alphabet names.	Apply familiar sound–spelling links to months, days and numbers; practise accurate intonation in questions.	Use known sound patterns to pronounce new topic vocabulary and phrases; improve accuracy through rehearsal.	Read aloud short phrases with increasingly intelligible pronunciation, rhythm and intonation; self-correct familiar patterns.
Reading and comprehension	Recognise and read familiar words, captions and short modelled sentences; use visual clues.	Read short phrases and simple sentences about dates and weather; use context and word patterns to infer meaning.	Read short descriptions, directions, signs and simple classroom texts; identify key details and familiar structures.	Understand short dialogues, menus, labels and descriptions; use a bilingual dictionary or word bank to check unfamiliar words.
Writing and composition	Copy and adapt familiar words and short phrases about self, family and pets; write simple answers using a model.	Write short phrases and simple sentences about birthday, date, colours and weather using a scaffold.	Construct linked sentences about home, school, time and weather; begin to adapt models with greater independence.	Write short texts and role-play scripts about preferences, shopping, lessons and clothing; check accuracy with support.
Grammar and sentence building	Notice that French sentences have patterns; use basic first-person phrases, simple questions and familiar nouns.	Use simple sentence frames, numbers and dates; notice agreement and word order in modelled language.	Use and adapt sentence patterns with prepositions, question forms and time expressions; notice gender and articles in familiar nouns.	Use familiar verbs and opinion phrases, simple negatives or conjunctions where taught; apply articles and basic agreement in rehearsed contexts.
Vocabulary and language-learning strategies	Recall and reuse greetings, alphabet, family, age and pets vocabulary; learn through songs, repetition and games.	Recall and combine vocabulary for colours, months, days, numbers and weather; use retrieval and visual prompts.	Transfer prior vocabulary to places, directions, school, time and weather; use cognates and word banks strategically.	Select vocabulary to communicate needs, likes and opinions; use a dictionary, reference support and editing routines.
Culture and intercultural understanding	Notice greetings, names and seasonal customs in French-speaking settings; respect linguistic differences.	Explore French calendar conventions and everyday weather expressions; compare with English usage.	Recognise aspects of towns, schools and daily routines in French-speaking contexts; compare familiar experiences.	Explore shopping, money, food, leisure and school life in French-speaking contexts; reflect on similarities and differences.