Knowledge Progression by Year Group

Year Group	Knowledge Focus
Year 3	Greetings, numbers, colours, classroom language, animals, days and months, simple personal information, basic phonics.
Year 4	Family, pets, food, weather, classroom objects, opinions, simple sentence structure, French traditions and celebrations.
Year 5	Hobbies, home, clothing, transport, planets, daily routines, opinions with reasons, developing grammatical understanding.
Year 6	School, healthy lifestyles, holidays, future aspirations, wider world topics, advanced sentence structures and independent language use.

French Progression of Skills and Knowledge

Area	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Listening	Listen attentively to familiar words, phrases and simple instructions. Identify key sounds and recognise familiar vocabulary.	Understand simple spoken sentences and classroom instructions. Identify familiar vocabulary in longer passages.	Understand longer spoken extracts containing familiar language and identify key details.	Understand extended spoken language and identify specific information with increasing independence.
Speaking	Repeat words and short phrases accurately. Answer simple questions using single words or short responses.	Ask and answer simple questions. Take part in short conversations using familiar language.	Speak in full sentences using familiar vocabulary. Express simple opinions and preferences.	Present information confidently from memory. Hold simple conversations with increasing fluency and accuracy.
Reading	Recognise and read familiar words and simple phrases. Match words to images.	Read and understand short sentences and texts. Identify key information.	Read and understand longer texts using context and known vocabulary.	Read longer passages independently and understand both gist and detail.
Writing	Copy and write familiar words and short phrases accurately. Label pictures using known vocabulary.	Write simple sentences independently using support materials.	Write short paragraphs using familiar vocabulary and sentence structures.	Write extended passages independently using a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures.
Phonics and Pronunciation	Recognise key French sounds and begin to pronounce familiar vocabulary accurately.	Apply growing phonics knowledge to improve pronunciation and reading.	Use phonics knowledge to decode unfamiliar words with increasing accuracy.	Read aloud confidently using good pronunciation and intonation.
Vocabulary Development	Learn and recall basic vocabulary on familiar topics such as greetings, colours, numbers and classroom language.	Expand topic-based vocabulary and begin using it independently in simple sentences.	Build a wider vocabulary and select appropriate language for different contexts.	Use a broad range of vocabulary confidently in speaking and writing.
Grammar	Understand that French nouns can be masculine or feminine. Build simple sentence structures.	Use adjectives and simple conjunctions. Understand basic sentence construction.	Begin using a range of verb forms and connectives to extend sentences. Apply gender and agreement rules with increasing accuracy.	Manipulate language independently. Use a wider range of grammar structures and more complex sentences.
Sentence Building	Build and repeat simple modelled sentences.	Adapt modelled sentences using different vocabulary.	Create original sentences using known language.	Create longer spoken and written responses independently.

Language Learning Skills	Begin using memory strategies to recall vocabulary.	Use simple reference materials and language-learning strategies.	Recognise language patterns and make comparisons with English.	Apply previously learned language to new situations and topics.
Intercultural Understanding	Develop awareness that French is spoken in France and other countries. Learn about simple cultural traditions.	Explore similarities and differences between life in Britain and French-speaking countries.	Develop understanding of customs, traditions and daily life in French-speaking communities.	Demonstrate appreciation and respect for different cultures and understand the global importance of languages.

End of Key Stage 2 Expectations

By the end of Year 6, pupils will be able to:

- Listen to and understand spoken French with increasing confidence.
- Communicate using familiar vocabulary and sentence structures.
- Read and understand age-appropriate French texts.
- Write independently for a range of simple purposes.
- Apply key phonics and grammatical knowledge.
- Understand and appreciate aspects of French culture and the wider francophone world.
- Demonstrate confidence, resilience and curiosity as language learners.
- Be fully prepared for the next stage of language learning at secondary school.

French Vocabulary Progression

Vocabulary Strand	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Greetings and Conversational Language	bonjour, salut, au revoir, merci, oui, non, comment ça va?	ça va bien, ça va mal, enchanté, s'il vous plaît	expressing opinions and preferences	extended conversation and transactional language
Personal Information	name, age, where I live	family members, pets	descriptions of self and others	aspirations, future plans, personal interests
Numbers	0–20	0–50	0–100	applying numbers in real-life contexts
Colours	rouge, bleu, vert, jaune, noir, blanc	extended colourdescriptions	colourswithin sentence structures	accurateadjective agreement with colours
Days, Months and Dates	days of the week	months of the year	birthdays and dates	using dates accurately in conversation and writing
Classroom Language	listen, look, repeat, write, read	classroom objects and instructions	independent use of classroom language	understanding complex instructions in French
Animals	common pets and animals	animal descriptions	habitats and preferences	comparisons and extended descriptions
Family	immediate family vocabulary	extended family vocabulary	describing family members	relationships and personal information
Food and Drink	common foods and drinks	likes and dislikes	ordering food and healthy choices	discussing diet and lifestyle
Weather	simple weather vocabulary	seasons and weather descriptions	detailed weather phrases	discussing climate and environment
Home and Local Area	rooms in a house	describing the home	furniture and household items	detailed descriptions of places and environments
Clothing	common clothing items	colours with clothing	expressing preferences	detailed descriptions using adjectives
School	simple school subjects	likes and dislikes of subjects	school routines	detailed opinions and reasons
Hobbies and Leisure	favouriteactivities	sports and interests	free-time activities	discussing interests in greater depth
Transport	basic forms of transport	travelling vocabulary	journeys and directions	discussing holidays and travel
Healthy Living	simple healthy choices	exercise and wellbeing vocabulary	healthy lifestyles	healthy living and future choices
The Wider World	France and French culture	French traditions and celebrations	French-speaking countries	global citizenship and cultural understanding
Opinion Phrases	j'aime, je n'aimepas	j'adore, je préfère	parce que(because)	justified opinions using extended sentences

Connectives	et (and)	mais (but)	parce que(because)	cependant, aussi, puis(however, also, then)
Question Words	comment ?, quel?, qui ?	où ?, quand?	pourquoi?, combien?	confident use of a range of question forms

Grammar Vocabulary Progression

Grammar Vocabulary	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Nouns	Recognise common nouns	masculine and feminine nouns	noun agreement	confident application
Articles	le, la, les	choosing articles accurately	applying articles independently	accurate use in extended writing
Adjectives	simple colours and descriptors	adjective placement	adjective agreement	wider descriptive vocabulary
Verbs	simple high-frequency verbs	first-person verbs	first, second and third-person forms	manipulating verbs in different contexts
Pronouns	je	tu, il, elle	nous, vous	wider range of personal pronouns
Sentence Building	simple phrases	simple sentences	compound sentences	extended and independent sentences
Tenses	present tense exposure	secure present tense	introduction to future references	greater awareness of time frames in language

End of Key Stage 2 Vocabulary Expectations

By the end of Year 6, pupils should be able to:

- Recall and apply a broad range of topic-based vocabulary.
- Understand and use key grammatical terminology.
- Use opinion phrases and justifications confidently.
- Manipulate familiar vocabulary to create original spoken and written responses.
- Apply vocabulary accurately across speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks.
- Demonstrate an understanding of French culture and the wider francophone world.
- Be equipped with the vocabulary foundation required for Key Stage 3 language learning.