



French

Key skills and knowledge

BY UNIT

This document shows the **skills** covered in each year group from Year 3- Year 6 and which units focus on developing those skills. It also gives key knowledge statements for each unit.

This document was last updated on 27.02.22. Please click [here](#) to find the most up-to-date version.

If you would like to see an overview of progression through the whole school, then please see our [Subject Leader Overview: French progression of skills and knowledge.](#)

Year 3

French greetings with puppets

French adjectives of colour, size and shape

French playground games

In a French classroom

French transport

A circle of life in French

Speaking and pronunciation

Asking and/or answering simple questions



Forming simple statements with information including the negative



Practising speaking with a partner



Using short phrases to give information



Beginning to adapt phrases from a rhyme/song



Listening and repeating key phonemes with care



Repeating short phrases accurately, including liaison of final consonant before vowel



Introducing self to a partner with simple phrases



Recognising and using adjectives



Year 3

French greetings with puppets

French adjectives of colour, size and shape

French playground games

In a French classroom

French transport

A circle of life in French

Listening and responding to single words and short phrases



Following verbal instructions in French



Responding to objects or images with a phrase or other verbal response



Listening and identifying key words in rhymes and songs and joining in



Beginning to identify vowel sounds and combinations



Listening and noticing rhyming words



Listening

Year 3

French greetings with puppets

French adjectives of colour, size and shape

French playground games

In a French classroom

French transport

A circle of life in French

Reading and writing

Recognising some familiar words in written form



Reading aloud some words from simple songs, stories and rhymes



Beginning to develop dictionary skills



Identifying cognates and near cognates



Recalling and writing simple words from memory



Experimenting with simple writing, copying with accuracy



Recognising and using adjectives of colour and size



Year 3

French greetings with puppets

French adjectives of colour, size and shape

French playground games

In a French classroom

French transport

A circle of life in French

Beginning to recognise gender of nouns, definite and indefinite article

Identifying plurals of nouns

Recognising adjectives and placement relative to the noun

Beginning to understand that verbs have patterns

Noticing the negative form

Beginning to use prepositions

Recognising that different languages are spoken in the community/world

Showing awareness of the capital and identifying some key cultural landmarks

Recognising cultural similarities and differences between customs and traditions in France and England

Grammar

Intercultural understanding



French greetings with puppetsFrench adjectives of colour, size and shapeFrench playground gamesIn a French classroomFrench transportA circle of life in French

Key knowledge from the unit

To know that in French there are formal and informal greetings and when it is appropriate to use each one	To know that a cognate is a word that is the same in both French and English e.g. un triangle	To understand that I can use known vocabulary, cognates and near cognates as clues to help me understand a text in French	To know that, in French, a space is needed before and after ? and !	To know the phonemes oi, au, in and on	To know that I can find the gender of a noun by looking it up in the dictionary where French nouns are followed by a gender indicator
To know that different greetings are used at different times of the day	To know that a near-cognate is a word that is very similar but not identical in French and English e.g. un cercle	To know that sentences are often structured differently in French and English	To understand some of the similarities and differences between school in France and schools in the UK	To know that I need to change my intonation to ask and answer questions	To know that a bilingual dictionary is a special dictionary to translate words from one language to another
To know that tone of voice can indicate a question	To know that adjectives of size are positioned in front of the noun in French e.g. un grand cercle	To know the sounds the common phonemes eu, oi, ou and ui make in French	To understand that every French noun is either masculine or feminine	To know some French speaking countries around the world	To know that a bilingual dictionary is in two parts- one where the words are listed in French and the other where the words are listed in English
To know that a cedilla is the tail mark under the ç and that it changes the pronunciation of the c from a hard sound to a soft 's' sound	To know that adjectives of colour are positioned after the noun in French e.g. un cercle bleu	To know the names of some Parisian landmarks	To know that the gender affects the form of the word un or une (the indefinite article)	To understand that I can use a model sentence as a guide for building other sentences	To know that placing ne and pas around a verb makes the verb negative
To know that French words are pronounced differently to the way they are spelt		To know some French playground games	To know that when we turn the statement j'ai un/une (I have a...) into a negative je n'ai pas de (I don't have a...) then we change the article from un/une to de	To know that en is usually used as a preposition when the mode of transport is something you get into e.g. en train , whereas à is used when you are not getting into a form of transport e.g. à vélo (a bicycle)	To know that we use the definite article when describing something specific and that the one we use depends on the gender of the noun: le (m.), la (f.), les (m./f. plural) and l' (when followed by a vowel)
		To know that many final sounds are not pronounced in French numbers / words (e.g. deux, trois)	To know that we can use connectives such as et (and) and mais (but) to join clauses.	To know that feminine nouns often (but not always) end in e	
			To know that most nouns in French become plural by adding an 's' at the end, as in English	To know that when talking about a specific noun in French we use the definite article le (m.) la (f.) l' (m./f. before a vowel) or les (m./f. plural)	
			To know that if a word is plural, we cannot use un or une and instead use des (some).		

Year 4

Portraits -
describing in
French

Clothes - getting
dressed in France

French numbers,
calendars and
birthdays

French weather
and the water
cycle

French food -
Miam, miam!

French and the
Eurovision song
contest

Speaking and pronunciation

Recognising and answering simple questions which involve giving personal information



Beginning to form opinion phrases



Beginning to use conversational phrases for purposeful dialogue



Using a model to form a spoken sentence



Speaking in full sentences using known vocabulary



Comparing sounds and spelling patterns with English



Listening and repeating further key phonemes with care



Rehearsing and performing a short presentation



Choosing appropriate adjectives from a wider range of adjectives



Year 4

Portraits -
describing in
French

Clothes - getting
dressed in France

French numbers,
calendars and
birthdays

French weather
and the water
cycle

French food -
Miam, miam!

French and the
Eurovision song
contest

Identifying items by colour and other adjectives



Listening and selecting information



Using language detective skills to decode vocabulary



Listening to songs, joining in with songs and noticing sound patterns



Noticing and beginning to predict key word patterns and spellings



Noticing and discussing cognates and beginning to identify language detective strategies



Following a short text or rhyme, listening and reading at the same time



Becoming familiar with format, layout and simple use of a bilingual dictionary to find the meaning of unknown words and check the spelling of unfamiliar words



Using cognates and near cognates along with other detective skills to gist information



Listening

Reading and writing

Year 4

Portraits -
describing in
French

Clothes - getting
dressed in France

French numbers,
calendars and
birthdays

French weather
and the water
cycle

French food -
Miam, miam!

French and the
Eurovision song
contest

Selecting and writing short words and phrases

Reading and writing



Making short phrases or sentences using word cards



Using adapted phrases to describe an object or person



Using indefinite article in the plural form



Recognising and using possessive adjective 'my' and pronouns he/she/it



Grammar

Recognising and beginning to apply rules for placement and agreement of adjectives



Recognising and using the negative form



Year 4

Portraits -
describing in
French

Clothes - getting
dressed in France

French numbers,
calendars and
birthdays

French weather
and the water
cycle

French food -
Miam, miam!

French and the
Eurovision song
contest

Using prepositions

Grammar



Making comparisons of word order in French and English



Comparing schools and celebrations between France and the UK



Comparing shops and high streets of France and UK



Recognising and using the Euro currency



Identifying some French-speaking countries



Intercultural understanding

Portraits - describing in FrenchClothes - getting dressed in FranceFrench numbers, calendars and birthdaysFrench weather and the water cycleFrench food - Miam, miam!French and the Eurovision song contest

Key knowledge from the unit

To know that, in French, adjectives change if they describe a girl or a feminine noun and that this is called adjectival agreement	To know that, in French, the possessive adjective 'my' must agree with the gender of the noun and that we use mon (m.), ma (f.) and mes (pl.)	To know some similarities and differences between French and English schools	To know that compass point phrases can be added to the front or end of a weather phrase and it will have the same meaning	To know that some American and English words are borrowed by the French such as le hot-dog and le hamburger	To know that de becomes du (not de le) when followed by a masculine noun
To know that most (but not all) adjectives take an extra 'e' at the end of the word to make it feminine	To know that some adjectives do <i>not</i> change when describing a feminine noun (orange, marron, à pois)	To know some French festivals that happen throughout the year	To know the names and locations of some of the cities in France	To know that the currency used in France is Euros and to recognise some of the notes and coins	To know that sentences can be extended using et or mais
To know that most adjectives go after the noun in French	To know that je aime (I like) becomes j'aime and je ne aime pas becomes je n'aime pas to help with pronunciation	To know some similarities and differences between French and English birthday celebrations		To know that I can use a bilingual dictionary to translate unknown words	To know that countries have different names in French and that each country is either masculine or feminine.
To know that if the noun in a sentence is plural then the adjective describing it also becomes plural	To know that if an adjective already ends in an 'e' in the masculine form, then it doesn't take another 'e' in the feminine form (e.g. jaune / rose)	To know that the abbreviation R.S.V.P, which is often used in English stands for Répondez s'il vous plaît which translates as 'Reply, if you please'			To know that the definite article is used in French when saying the country, e.g. la France, le Royaume-Uni, les Pays-Bas
To know that the Louvre is a famous French art gallery	To know whether to use the pronouns il or elle (he or she) when describing what someone is wearing	To know that creating images to help remember pronunciation of new vocabulary is a good strategy, e.g. quatorze , (cat, oars)			
To know that the feminine and masculine form of some adjectives can sound quite different e.g. vert/verte, heureux/heureuse		To know that when building 2 digit numbers in French, we say 'twenty and one' or vingt-et-un			

Year 5

French monster
pets

Space
exploration-
in French

Shopping in
France

French speaking
world

Verbs in a French
week

Meet my French
family

Forming a question in order to ask for Information



Presenting factual information in extended sentences including justification



Rehearsing and recycling extended sentences orally



Planning and presenting a short descriptive text



Using intonation and gesture to differentiate between statements and questions



Making realistic attempts at pronunciation of new, unknown vocabulary



Listening and repeating key phonemes with care applying pronunciation rules



Adapting a story and retelling to the class



Using adjectives with correct placement and agreement



Speaking and pronunciation

Year 5

French monster
pets

Space
exploration-
in French

Shopping in
France

French speaking
world

Verbs in a French
week

Meet my French
family

Listening and gisting information from an extended text using language detective skills such as cognates

Listening



Listening and following the sequence of a story, song or text including some unfamiliar language



Matching unknown written words to new spoken words



Recognising blends of sounds and selecting words to recognise common spelling patterns



Recognising features of different text types



Using a range of language detective strategies to decode new vocabulary including context and text type

Reading and writing



Reading and adapting a range of different format short texts



Confidently using a bilingual dictionary to find the meaning of unknown words and check the spelling of unfamiliar words



Using contextual clues and cues to gist and make predictions about meanings



Year 5

French monster
pets

Space
exploration-
in French

Shopping in
France

French speaking
world

Verbs in a French
week

Meet my French
family

Gisting information from an extended text



Using existing knowledge of vocabulary and phrases to create new sentences



Completing a gapped text with key words/phrases



Writing a short text using word and phrase cards to model or scaffold



Using different adjectives, with correct positioning and agreement



Using language of metaphor and comparison



Correct use of definite and indefinite article depending on gender and number of noun and including partitive 'some'



Applying placement and agreement rules for adjectives



Reading and writing

Grammar

Year 5

French monster
pets

Space
exploration-
in French

Shopping in
France

French speaking
world

Verbs in a French
week

Meet my French
family

Recognising and applying verb endings for present regular 'er' verbs



Exploring verbs in infinitive form



Learning and using some high frequency irregular verbs e.g. to have, to be, to go



Using comparative language



Identifying and locating other countries in the world where French is spoken



Comparing geographical features and climates of different French-speaking countries



Grammar

Intercultural understanding

	<u>French monster pets</u>	<u>Space exploration- in French</u>	<u>Shopping in France</u>	<u>French speaking world</u>	<u>Verbs in a French week</u>	<u>Meet my French family</u>
	To know that bilingual dictionaries should not be used to look up every single word in a text	To know that, in French, the days of the week (with the exception of Sunday - Dimanche) were named after bodies in the solar system	To know that the pattern of building larger numbers changes beyond 70 by adding the teen numbers to 60, e.g soixante-dix (70), soixante-onze, soixante-douze	To know that when using à (to) and then the direct article à+ le = au (eg. au nord)	To understand that French verbs take different forms	To know that there is no possessive apostrophe in French but that to say 'my mother's father' the French would say Le père de ma mère (the father of my mother).
	To know that there are usually four forms of an adjective to describe- a noun that is singular masculine, a noun that is singular feminine, a noun that is plural masculine and a noun that is plural feminine	To know that metaphors and similes are also used in French and that a metaphor is when we say an object <i>is</i> another object and that a simile is when we liken an object to another	To know that the word for 80 means 'four twenties' - quatre-vingts , and numbers up to 100 are built by continuing to count on from quatre-vingt , e.g quatre-vingt-neuf, (89) quatre-vingt-dix, (90) quatre-vingt-onze (91)	To know that there are many countries where French is spoken in the world and be able to name some of these	To know that the infinitive is the basic form of a verb which in English is usually expressed as 'to [do something]' (e.g. 'to run')	To know that when a singular noun begins with a vowel, the possessive adjective ma is difficult to pronounce, so mon is used (e.g. mon ami / mon amie
	To revise that adjectives of size go before the noun and adjectives of colour go after the noun	To know that I can compare nouns by placing plus / moins and que around the adjective (e.g. Neptune est plus grande que Mercure)	To know that there are clues in the words for the multiples of 10, eg cinquante - 50	To know some 'treasures' that make up the national identity of France and some other French-speaking countries	To know that there are three different endings for French verbs in the infinitive form: those that end -er, those that end -ir and those that end -re	To revise agreement and position of adjectives in French.
		To know that I can use parce que (because) to extend my sentence and give a justification	To know that de translates as 'of' or 'some' and know that it changes when coupled with le to become du (not de le) and when coupled with les to become des (not de les) .	To know that I can use il y a to mean 'there is' or 'there are'	To know that the ending of regular -er verbs changes to go with the subject pronoun	To know that the word order is sometimes different in French compared to English
					To know that the French use guillemets << >> in the same way that the speech marks are used in English	
					To know that some verbs do not follow regular patterns, such as avoir (to have) and être (to be)	
					To know how to conjugate the verbs avoir and être	

Year 6

French sport and the Olympics

French football champions

In my French house

Planning a French holiday

Visiting a town in France

Speaking and pronunciation

Developing extended sentences, for example to justify a fact or opinion



Planning, asking and answering extended questions



Engaging in conversation and transactional language



Planning and presenting a short descriptive text



Modifying, expressing and comparing opinions



Discussing strategies for remembering and applying pronunciation rules



Speaking and reading aloud with increasing confidence and fluency



Comparing and applying pronunciation rules or patterns from known vocabulary



Recognising and using a wide range of descriptive phrases



Giving a presentation drawing upon learning from a number of previous topics



Year 6

French sport and the Olympics

French football champions

In my French house

Planning a French holiday

Visiting a town in France

Using prepositions to indicate the location of objects relative to something

Listening



Understanding directional language and phrases and prepositions to describe how to get to places eg the route to school



Recognising present and near future tense sentences (using aller + infinitive)



Recalling and performing an extended song or rhyme



Listening to stories, songs or texts in French



Making increasingly accurate attempts to read unfamiliar words and phrases

Reading and writing



Reading and using language detective skills to assess meaning including sentence structure



Reading and responding to an extract from a story, an e-mail message or song



Reading short authentic texts for enjoyment or information



Year 6

French sport and the Olympics

French football champions

In my French house

Planning a French holiday

Visiting a town in France

Using a bilingual dictionary to select alternative vocabulary for sentence building

Reading and writing



Choosing words, phrases and sentences and writing as a text or captions



Constructing a short text on a familiar topic



Using a wide range of descriptive phrases



Recognising and using verbs in different tenses



Accurately applying placement and agreement rules for adjectives

Grammar



Recognising and beginning to form some verbs in near future tense using aller



Year 6

French sport and the Olympics

French football champions

In my French house

Planning a French holiday

Visiting a town in France

Recognising and applying verb endings for present regular 'er' verbs

Grammar



Learning and using some common irregular verbs, e.g. **faire** - 'to make/do'



Understanding how word order differs between French and English



Identifying word classes within a sentence



Learning about France's sporting culture and events

Intercultural understanding



Asking question and making insightful commentary on cultural differences, including some understanding of stereotype



French sport and the OlympicsFrench football championsIn my French housePlanning a French holidayVisiting a town in France

Key knowledge from the unit

To know that we use the verb jouer (to play) with some sports and faire (to make) with other sports	To know that pronunciation is important when presenting in French	To understand that existing written sentences in French can be adapted	To know that the near future tense is formed by using the present tense of the verb aller + the infinitive, e.g. je vais manger - I am going to eat	When using the prepositions à côté de , près de or loin de , the de may change if followed by le or les : de+le = du , de + les = des
To know the French word for countries around the world	To know that there are different strategies to work out the meaning of new vocabulary	To know a range of prepositions to describe the position of objects	To know that, when saying you go to a country, the preposition used depends on the gender of the country name: en with feminine singular countries, au with the masculine singular countries, aux with countries that are plural	To recognise some modes of transport that are used in Paris
To know that the way verbs change to match the pronoun is called conjugation			To understand that gisting a text involves getting an idea of what it is about and doesn't mean understanding every word	To know that when standalone adjectives are used, such as when saying c'est amusant , we always use the singular masculine
To know each part of the verb aller - (to go), depending on the pronoun			To know different ways to travel to France	
To know that different prepositions are used to say going to a country: en if the country is feminine singular (e.g. en France) au if the country is masculine singular (e.g. au Canada) aux if the country is plural (e.g. aux États-Unis d'Amérique)			To know how to distinguish between the present and the near future tense	
To know that the Tour de France is a world famous cycling race that takes place in France each year				
To know that pétanque is a popular French game sometimes known as boules				
To know a range of techniques that can be used to learn new vocabulary				