

Reviews of *C'est Français!*

Times Educational Supplement

C'est Français! is for non-specialist teachers of French. This spiral bound A4 book has 18 units of teacher's notes and 69 black and white photocopiable worksheets in one volume.

Some of the worksheets can be adapted for flashcards and games. All writing instructions for pupil have an English equivalent underneath. Key words indicate the language pupils are expected to learn.

Lesson plans are based on 'activities' and 'further activities' sections designed to be adapted to suit local circumstances. A glossary provides straightforward grammatical explanations as well as cultural information.

A welcome component is a simple statement of learning objectives, which makes clear what pupils should be able to do at the end of each unit.

The cassette (Ed: now a CD) models pronunciation, provides questions and answers, and includes 8 traditional songs. The artwork and ideas are similar to many Key Stage 3 courses so a secondary department following up this primary languages scheme would need to ensure that its programme and resources were sufficiently different to continue to motivate the pupils.

A bonus is that the themes complement the QCA Schemes of Work for KS2.

(Ed: we have omitted a paragraph here as it comments on a mistake that has been corrected in subsequent editions.)

However, if you are looking for a carefully structured, but flexible framework, with a clear and uncluttered layout, *C'est Français!* promises to be an admirable resource.

Cynthia Martin

Special Needs Information Press

Kathy Williams is an experienced teacher and has devised this pack for non-specialist teachers of foreign languages to deliver the National Curriculum Guidelines for MFL to pupils in primary schools. The pack consists of 18 units each with teacher's notes clarifying learning objectives, lesson outlay and extension activities. All units have accompanying photocopiable pupil worksheets. Although intended for KS2, the clearly laid out pupil sheets could be usefully employed in KS3 with pupils with SEN as many of the suggested activities promote the rehearsal needed in order to establish vocabulary and confidence. Illustrations are appropriate for early secondary age pupils and as the entire pack is photocopiable, it provides a low cost resource to support

rehearsal of taught points, homework, etc. The accompanying 70 minute tape (Ed: now a CD) would add to the pack's use, as it models the vocabulary, phrases and sentences used in the book, together with a selection of French songs. A useful pack well worth considering by all primary schools wishing to introduce French into the curriculum, for support activities for KS3 pupils or for after school clubs.

Bridge House Languages

This is a beginners French course for learners aged 7–11. There are over 60 photocopiable pupils' sheets and lesson plans based on QCA's guidelines in the book. The cassette (Ed: now a CD) contains 70 minutes of vocabulary, phrases, sentences and eight traditional songs. Content covers greetings, the classroom, seasons and weather, introducing yourself, home, birthdays, countries of the world, animals, family, food, sport, clothes and town. There is a list of key words at the back and a glossary with grammatical points. Links are made to other curriculum areas, in particular to numeracy, literacy, ICT and technology.

The pictures on the photocopiable sheets are good fun, and the children learning with this resource will have a very positive experience of French. The teacher's notes are comprehensive and very helpful to those who are not used to teaching languages. The entire course is flexible and teachers can go as fast or as slow as they like. The material would also be very useful for running an after-school club.

The course is based on photocopiable sheets, so a school using this would need to organise in advance to avoid the teacher having to rush to the photocopier every morning. It would also be useful to provide pupils with a folder to keep their work in. Designing a cover could be a good cross-curricular activity.

British Council Website

For older children (KS2 level, aged 7–11), oral skills often need reinforcing with written language work. I am not a huge fan of textbooks, but I find it is handy to have a bank of resources that can be used to consolidate the language I've introduced through stories or games. I like *C'est Français!* by Kathy Williams which has some nice, clear photocopiable worksheets. There are some suggested lesson plans, too, although I tend not to follow these exactly, but rather tailor them to my needs. A cassette tape (Ed: now a CD) accompanies the book.

Beth Rigby, Year 6 teacher at Fairlawn Primary School in London