

KESKER SAY (Chris's English Translation)

Most middle schools have a teacher who leads each subject. Unfortunately, they do not have enough time to teach every class, so their colleagues must complete the team. This often applies to French classes. At my school, a maths teacher taught a class for their first year of French and when she left the school no one volunteered to take on this role. Since I had taken evening classes in French and had accompanied school trips in France, although a science teacher, I was encouraged by the French specialist to complete the team. With the promise of a lot of assistance and advice, I was persuaded with the helpful comment that I would be better than nothing. I discovered that for one of my four French lessons a week, the gym was empty. I took my French class there so that they could work in groups of two or three and speak French simultaneously, without disturbing the other classes. I would prepare them with the appropriate vocabulary and expressions to ask questions on topics such as their name, age, pets and purchases.

The grade awarded to a school after an OFSTED inspection can be crucial for a school to attract new students and to be successful. When it was our turn and the inspectors arrived, they asked for a detailed list of the specializations and experience of the teachers, as well as a copy of the timetable, in order to choose the lessons to follow. We were all looking forward to doing our best. They decided that one of the lessons to watch should be my French lesson at the gym. I had already prepared the children and had given them the topic of clothes. On the whiteboard, I wrote Qu'est-ce que c'est . As it is hard to say that, I thought it would be very helpful to add a phonetic alternative of 'kesker say'. The lesson was good, but the inspector criticized me for providing the phonetic version, because he thought the children would not remember the correct phrase. At least, it has helped me.