

Update: September 2024

CURRICULUM POLICY

Introduction

The 'Ecole Française de Londres Jacques Prévert' is a French school in London which admits boys and girls from the age of 3 to 11 years. The school was founded in 1974, initially to serve the local community of French nationals. Over the years, an increasing proportion of bilingual French/English pupils, as well as those of other nationalities have been admitted.

As a French school in London, we aim to 'promote a friendly, familial atmosphere... to provide a harmonious educational experience based on the official French programmes, and open to the culture of the United Kingdom'.

The school is 'une école conventionnée' subject to the authority of the French Ministry of Education, exercised through the Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger (AEFE) and the French Embassy in London. **The school teaches the French national school curriculum in French.** A substantial amount of time is devoted to the teaching of English (4 hours per week). The vast majority of pupils continue their education in the French educational system but some choose to transition to the British system at 11. The school is part of the network of French accredited schools in London ('écoles françaises homologuées de Londres'), with whom we have close working relationships under the authority of the French Embassy in London, and under the scrutiny of the French inspectorate for all educational matters.

The school is also registered as an independent school with the Department for Education (DfE).

Unlike its English equivalent, the French system works on full calendar years, with the age of children calculated from the 1st January of every year. As a consequence, the French and the English systems work slightly differently.

Both the French and English curricula complement the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

French curriculum

Translated from: Bulletin officiel, special official bulletin no. 2 of 26 March 2015

Cycle 1: a single cycle, fundamental for the success of all

The school has only 3 levels in cycle 1: Petite, Moyenne, and Grande Sections (Nursery to Year 1).

[Click here to access the official French curriculum \(cycle 1\) in English](#)

Cycle 2: the basic learning cycle

All levels are taught: CP, CE1 and CE2.

[Click here to access the official French curriculum \(cycle 2\) in English](#)

Cycle 3: the consolidation cycle

The first 2 levels are taught: CM1 and CM2. The last one, called 6ème, is part of the secondary schools.

[Click here to access the official French curriculum \(cycle 3\) in English](#)

In each cycle, team meetings are regularly held to monitor, evaluate and review schemes of work. Lesson plans are established according to the curriculum and in a consistent way between classes.

English curriculum

The English curriculum is followed with the exemption of EAL children. The language is progressively used for lessons such as science and humanities (science and geography in CP, CE1 and CE2). All teachers are native speakers, bringing along the specific educational culture of their country as part of the learning experience for our pupils.

The Head of English manages the English department and reports to the Head.

In Petite, Moyenne and Grande Sections (Nursery to Year 1), we understand the importance of an effective start to a child's education. We offer a fun, stimulating and caring environment promoting 'active' learning and allowing the children space to grow independently and confidence needed to take on new challenges. We aim to foster a love of learning English within a broad and balanced curriculum, adopting a modern and innovative approach, igniting an enthusiasm for learning English that will stay with them for life. The curriculum emphasises learning through play and exploring new experiences. Activities are planned around the children's needs and interests as they develop skills to become confident learners. Children are encouraged to explore their ideas, make links and ask questions. In Moyenne Section, children learn through enquiry-based topics, designed around engaging themes such as People Who Help Us, Minibeasts, Circus and many more. Children are taught English through traditional stories and bringing the stories to life through role play, retelling using story mapping and providing cross-curricular activities to link to every story. For example, STEM building activities such as selecting appropriate materials to build a parachute for Jack and the Beanstalk.

In CP, the children learn to read and write at the same time. They will end CP having studied Read Write Inc Set 1 and 2 words and so are able to write short sentences and will have learned how to read and write a certain number of unphonetic words. They spend the first term of CE1 by revising the set 2 words and then progress set 3 which takes the rest of the year. The children therefore learn to read and write sentences of varying complexity depending on their ability, by the end of CP. Streaming in CP takes place after the first half term break, with the aim of raising all the CP children to a similar level in reading and writing by the beginning of CE1, despite many children joining JP from English speaking schools.

The Head of English ensures that pupils are placed in the correct group to provide appropriate support and challenge.

We are keen on providing the children with a well balanced curriculum of language-based skills and wide-ranging literature- from poetry and narrative writing to persuasive writing and formal letters. Our curriculum is underpinned by a rigorous approach to grammar and spelling with phonics taught systematically from CP to CE2. Pupils formally read and write in English from CE1, where they learn to build on simple sentence writing by using adjectives, similes and a range of adverbs to enrich their writing. In CE2 children are introduced to the variety of text types and begin writing diaries, descriptions, poems and narrative pieces. By CM1 and CM2, the children are able to write to persuade and inform, confidently using figurative devices such as metaphors and pathetic fallacy to engage the reader. All children regularly listen to and read a plethora of classic and modern fiction and poetry in order to enable them to answer questions where they fact find, infer meaning and deduce the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.

[Click here to access the English curriculum](#)

Some events within our school are carried out in both French and English to reinforce the multicultural and plurilingual approach we are implementing as a school of the AEFÉ worldwide network.

Assessment and reports

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Teachers use both summative and formative forms of assessment. They provide each pupil with the feedback and guidance needed for him or her to progress as well as keep parents and carers regularly informed of the academic progress of their child.

Complying with the French Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, teachers evaluate skills ("compétences"). They report to the parents twice a year in Maternelle with the application "Je Valide", then at the end of each term from CP to CM2 with the application "LivrEval". Teachers aim to inform parents and carers in a timely, clear and positive fashion.

The end-of-year report provides information specific to the French School system regarding the placement of the pupil in the following year ("Avis de passage").

School Day

Classes take place every day of the week with the same schedule, starting at 9.00am and ending at 3.30pm excluding Wednesday afternoons. Maternelle classes finish 15 minutes earlier each day. School gates open at 8.50am and teachers welcome pupils into their classroom or in the playground at 8.50am. We encourage families to observe those times, thus ensuring a good and stress-free start to the day for all.

We believe that intellectual and emotional development go hand in hand for our children, this is why we endeavour to provide help and support whenever needed.

School Calendar

The yearly school calendar is based on the AEFÉ yearly instructions to ensure a total of teaching hours broadly similar to what is implemented in France and expected to teach the programmes completely each year. It also takes into account the work/rest periods for pupils that are implemented within the French schooling system and takes into consideration, as much as possible, the other school calendars in the AEFÉ London network.

On this basis, the school calendar is drafted by the Head each year several months beforehand and proposed for voting in the School council “Conseil d'école”. The AEFÉ (both the Inspector from the zone – IEN ZENOS – and the central office) will then check its compliance to the French “Education nationale” expectations and send the School an agreement for the following school year.

Extracurricular provision

From 8.00am until classes start, and from the end of the school day until 5.00pm every day (except on Wednesdays afternoons), families can sign up for Morning club and/or Afterschool club, or for the Homework Club which offers a peaceful and studious environment in small groups. These club options are provided by the school for an additional fee.

The Parents' Association called APEEF offers a variety of artistic, scientific, physical and cultural workshops at the end of the school day, which are further opportunities to nurture and grow young people's interests and actively hone their talents. We strongly encourage all pupils to participate