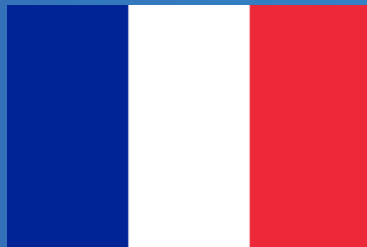


FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM



Smithfield
State High School

Trinity Beach
STATE SCHOOL

Our Partners
 **JAMES COOK**
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

What is an immersion program?

An Immersion Program is an innovative program which immerses students in a language while studying another subject.

Why French?

French has been taught in Australian schools and universities since the 1880s. Originally offered with Italian and German as a modern language option alongside classical languages, it was valued as an important academic and cultural discipline and a means of accessing the intellectual and cultural heritage of France. French continues to be studied at all levels across all states and territories and is currently the third most widely studied language in schools. Wider community interest in learning French is strong, as evidenced by enrolments in courses offered by regional branches of the Alliance Française and the proliferation of informal community-based French conversation groups and language clubs.

French Context Statement. Australian Curriculum. 2017.

Ten Reasons to study French

1. A world language

More than 220 million people speak French on the five continents. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. Our close neighbours (only 3 hours flight from Brisbane) such as Vanuatu and New Caledonia use French as their official language. French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world.

2. A language for the job market

The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world. As the world's fifth biggest economy and third-ranking destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner.

3. The language of culture

French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. A knowledge of French offers access to great works of literature in the original French, as well as films and songs. French is the language of Victor Hugo, Molière, Léopold Senghor, Edith Piaf, Jean-Paul Sartre, Alain Delon and Zinedine Zidane.

4. A language for travel

France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 79.5 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit France, and other French speaking countries. This course offers insights into French culture, mentality and way of life.

5. A language for higher education

Speaking French opens up study opportunities at renowned French universities and business schools, ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world. Students with a good level of French are eligible for French government grants to enrol in postgraduate courses in France, in the discipline of their choice, and qualify for internationally recognised degrees.

6. The other language of international relations

French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts.

7. A language that opens up the world

After English and German, French is the third most widely used language on the internet, ahead of Spanish. An ability to understand French offers an alternative view of the world through communication with French speakers from all over the world and through media outlets.

8. A language that is fun to learn

French is an easy language to learn. There are many similarities between French and English, which makes the language easier to learn, fifty per cent of current English vocabulary is derived from French. It does not take long to reach a level where you can communicate in French.

9. A language for learning other languages

French is a good base for learning other languages, especially the Romance languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) as well as English.

10. The language of love and reason

First and foremost, learning French is the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich, melodious language, often called the language of love. French is also an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking, which is a valuable skill for philosophical discussions and negotiations.

FAQ

What if my child has not previously studied French?

The course has been designed for non-native French speakers. However, to be successful it is highly recommended that your child has studied French in Year 7 and Year 8.

How does the program work?

For the first six weeks in Term 1, the students learn French during their timetabled French and Humanities lessons. This ensures that the students have acquired a solid base of French and can work effectively through immersion. From week six Term 1, they transition to Humanities in French.

What attributes will my child need to be successful in Immersion?

While academic results are an important criteria for this program, the most vital factor is your child's motivation and resilience, as they may struggle initially for the first few weeks when the French is delivered more intensely. It is a requirement that students can work independently and should dedicate approximately an hour a day out of school to consolidate their learning.

Why is Immersion beneficial to student performance?

Despite studying curriculum content through a second language, Immersion students typically perform at least as well on assessment of that content than those learning the same material in their first language (Dalton-Puffer, 2008)

- Students learn to communicate in their chosen language in meaningful situations.
- Immersion programs promote higher levels of intercultural sensitivity and competence, including a more positive attitude towards the cultures of others.
- Listening skills, study techniques and work ethic are developed.
- Students improve their understanding of the English language through learning a second language.
- Bilingual children consistently outperform their monolingual counterparts in cognitive tasks
- Students are more likely to be selected for International Exchange Programs if they have studied a language through immersion

Comparative Data Year 9 Humanities, Semester 1, 2017						
Course	A – C	A	B	C	D	E
Humanities in French	100%	44%	44%	12%		
Humanities	97%	33%	40%	24%	3%	
Comparative Data Year 9 French, Semester 1						
2015	95%	33%	29%	33%	5%	
2016	No cohort					
2017	100%	67%	22%	11%		

How can my child join the Immersion Program?

1. Interested students need to have attained a B rating or better in French and Humanities in Year 8 to qualify for the course.
2. Parents/Carers must complete an application form by contacting the program's Director of Immersion, Mr. Tangi Montfort tmont52@eq.edu.au
3. It is a requirement that students participate in a short interview with Mr. Montfort. Parents are welcome to attend.
4. Student and parents will be notified of the result of their application in Term 4.

Contact Information

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