

# French Immersion Frequently Asked Questions

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## **I don't speak French, is French Immersion right for my child?**

Although parents should be willing to learn a little bit of French at home alongside their child, they do not need to be able to speak the language in order for their child to enter the program. French Immersion is specifically designed for families whose first language is not French.

## **How can I support my child's French learning at home?**

Invite your child to speak to you in French, read alongside them and ask them what they understand in their reading. Watch TV shows or movies with them in French, with French subtitles. Refer to this link (also on the school website) to support French learning at home: <https://www.bcsifrenched.ca/families>

## **How much French can we expect in Grade 6?**

In Grade 6, teachers move quickly to have all classroom instruction done in French and students are very soon able to understand French-only language instruction. By Christmas, students will be able to express themselves in French, using simple sentences and vocabulary and in the second half of the year, they will move to having French as their main language of communication in the classroom, both with their peers and with their teachers.

## **How is the French Immersion program different from the English program?**

Students in the French Immersion Program achieve a level of learning in all the subject areas that is equivalent to that of the English Program. Students are immersed in French in the classroom; French is the language of instruction across the subject areas.

## **Will my child learn any English in school?**

In Grade 6, there will be no English Language Arts class. In Grade 7, students will have English Language Arts re-introduced into their schedule. In Grades 7 and 8, they will receive two hours of this course per week, and as they move through the years, they will have increased time in English.

## **How will my child's language skills develop as they move through the program?**

Children proceed from understanding no French to mimicking and repeating the teacher's words to using English sentences with French words thrown in. At this stage, French is interspersed with some English. Within the first few months of Grade 6, children will be able to use French sentences. In effect, they are learning language by using language.

## **What are the benefits to starting French in Grade 6, in a Late Immersion program?**

Late French Immersion students have completed Elementary School, where they have been able to build a strong English base in literacy and numeracy. At this age, many students are able to make their own personal choice to join the French Immersion program. As such, Late French Immersion learners are often highly motivated language learners.

## **If we apply before the deadline, is my child guaranteed a spot in the program?**

Yes, if you apply before the deadline, your child will be accepted into the French Immersion Program. If you miss the deadline, you can still submit your application and entry to the program will be dependent on spots available.

## **Is learning French fun?**

OUI, OUI, OUI!!! Being in French Immersion is definitely more academically challenging as students will be learning all of their subjects in French, but if the student is motivated to learn, it is so much fun! Learning a second language opens up so many doors and possibilities and it is FUN to communicate in a second language!

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