

# French Bilingual Binational Program FAQs

## What is the French Bilingual and Binational Program?

The French Bilingual and Binational Program (FBBP) is a continuous, high quality, non-accredited program from Reception to Year 6 at Highgate School and Year 7 to Year 10 at Unley High School. The program supports French background and additional language learners to develop a high level of proficiency in French and intercultural understanding with a harmonised French and Australian curriculum.

## Who can enrol in the FBBP at Highgate School?

The program is offered to all students in the Reception year level. Entry is dependent on three criteria: having a sibling enrolled at Highgate OR living in the Highgate School zone OR being French/francophone. We will also consider enrolment for families who demonstrate a commitment to French/English bilingual education. Students wishing to join the program later in their schooling will need to have an interview and an assessment of French linguistic abilities across learning areas to ensure they have an age-appropriate knowledge to successfully engage with the curriculum.

## If a child wishes to enter the FBBP part way through their schooling, what level of French is the child expected to demonstrate?

All students beginning in the program after the Reception year are assessed in line with expectations of the year level. This is to ensure students can access the curriculum in both English and French and be successful in their schooling. We have developed an assessment schedule for entry in the program, which clearly outlines academic and Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CECRL) expectations. Students also attend an interview and families' circumstances are also taken into account when making decisions.

## Are non-French speaking students from non-French speaking households able to enrol in the French program?

If a child is commencing Reception level AND lives in the Highgate School zone, the family can elect to participate in FBBP. This can be selected on the enrolment form. For more information, please contact [French.Highgates153@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:French.Highgates153@schools.sa.edu.au)

## How are the Australian and French curriculum requirements met?

Our school is the first school in South Australia to implement a harmonised French and Australian curriculum. As we are an Australian public school, we must assess and report towards the Australian Curriculum assessment standards. We are currently awaiting final endorsement of our curriculum documents from the Department for Education.

## What subjects are being taught in French or English?

Students participating in FBBP will learn from a harmonised Australian / French curriculum incorporating both countries' curricula.

In the Early Years across the week, students will be taught 80% of the time in French and 20% of the time in English. The focus in English is on phonological awareness and development of reading and writing skills. All other learning areas are taught in French with English supplement as required.

From Year 3, learning will be divided across both languages 50:50. Families are informed through term overviews sent by teachers what language is used for each learning areas.

## How much French does the program expect teachers to speak during class time?

As much as possible. The only exception would be around safety, wellbeing and behaviour management where teachers / leaders are encouraged to speak in the student's mother tongue.

## How much French does the program expect the students to speak during class time?

Students are constantly encouraged to speak French to the teacher and other students during lesson times.

## How are the students' reading abilities assessed? How often is this done?

Running records are done every term in both languages. Students are to borrow appropriate readers from the library. In French, readers are sorted by reading level.

Expected reading levels:

Reception – N/A

Year 1 – A, B

Year 2 – C, D, E

Year 3 – F, G, H, I

Year 4 – J, K, L, M

Year 5 – N, O, P, Q

Year 6 – R, S, T, U, V

## How are students and families made aware of age-appropriate reading materials?

Students are encouraged to borrow books of interest to them. They can use the five-finger rule which is read the first page, if there are 5 or more words which they don't understand, the book is too complex at the moment.

A wide range of French reading materials are available at the library with many items labelled with recommended age / year level including:

Reading for pleasure – fiction and non-fiction materials  
Picture books, magazines, novels and comics (BD).

## How are teachers encouraged to deal with google translate issues in assessment tasks?

The message to teachers and students is clear. Google translate may be used for the translation of one word or two although the use of the good old dictionary is strongly encouraged in class. Google translated texts / projects will be refused and students will be given the opportunity to resubmit their own work.

## Are composite classes (mixing different year levels) the norm within the FBBP?

Composite classes are not the norm in the FBBP, but they are sometimes unavoidable. There are many reasons why this is the case, including but not limited to, the number and make-up of student cohorts, student wellbeing and complexity.

## What is the recruitment process for French-speaking teachers, and what are the school incentives to retain teachers as part of the FBBP?

The recruitment process for French-speaking teachers is the same as any other teacher in the Department for Education schools. The department's People and Culture division is responsible for such processes. There are no additional incentives to work in the program.

## I want my child to continue their French Bilingual Education onto High School in Adelaide, what are my options?

The FBBP is a R-10 language offering that sits across Highgate School from Primary Years (R-6) and Unley High School for Years 7 – 10. Students attending Highgate School in FBBP in Year 6 will be supported in the application process to enrol at Unley High School. Once the program is completed in Year 10, students have the opportunities to pursue language learning in a SACE stream or apply for the International Baccalaureate (commencing 2022).

Have more questions? Please send them through to  
[French.Highgates153@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:French.Highgates153@schools.sa.edu.au)