

How can I support my child if I don't speak French?

- Talk regularly to your child. Create opportunities to speak with your child about new experiences, what they are learning and thinking. Help your child to organize thoughts and ideas and to develop a broad vocabulary.
- Read aloud with your child and have them read aloud to you. Have your child tell you what they are reading, such as the characters, events, type of text, words used or the pictures they see. Expose your child to English and French reading materials as often as possible. Use a variety of genres (i.e. newspapers, comic books, fiction and non-fiction).
- Provide time and encouragement. Learning a new language may be frustrating at times. Most often if your child is experiencing difficulty in a particular subject area, the confusion may lie with the concept, not the language. Discuss and explain the concept in your home language. Be sure to speak with your child's teacher if they continue to experience difficulty.



Learning and Living in Faith

OUR MISSION:

We are called to celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.

For further information,
contact your child's school.

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Durham Catholic District School Board

Welcome to French Immersion

A Guide for Parents and Guardians





Welcome to French Immersion

Our French Immersion program is designed to provide non-francophone students with a high degree of proficiency in the French language. The goal is to develop the student's level of proficiency in French, while supporting their continued growth in English. French Immersion provides students with the opportunity to achieve a high level of functional bilingualism, which strengthens their ability to communicate and participate effectively in the workplace and global community.

Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first language skills and the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances problem-solving and reasoning skills, the capacity for creative thinking, and the ability to respect and understand other cultures. Providing a strong, early foundation in literacy, especially in reading and speaking with your child will enhance their second language acquisition.

French Immersion Programming and the Ontario Curriculum

In order to develop the skills necessary to become lifelong language learners, students will be given multiple opportunities to:

- listen and respond to texts and others
- speak and interact with others
- read, view and respond to a variety of texts
- write a variety of texts for many different purposes and audiences.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2013) The Ontario Curriculum for French as a Second Language

Grade	Percentage of Day in French	Percentage of Day in English
1	90%	10%
2	90%	10%
3	90%	10%

In Grades 1-3, Religious Education and Family Life is taught in English.

4	50%	50%
5	50%	50%
6	50%	50%
7	50%	50%
8	50%	50%

Subjects taught in English include English Language, Mathematics and Religious Education and Family Life.

Suggestions for Parents/Guardian with Children in French Immersion

- Explore the language together; read the cereal box together in French or listen to a French song.
- Communicate your questions or concerns to the teacher; they will be able to offer support and suggestions.
- Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain of the accurate expression or punctuation; there are many tools to help with this.
- Provide access to French materials such as books, magazines, games, videos, television and websites.
- Be positive about the program, teacher and school.
- Explore online resources such as Canadian Parents for French www.cpf.ca and French as a Second Language homework toolbox www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca

