

## **FI Grade 1 FI Registration Information Night Q & A**

**Q : If the child doesn't do well and you would like to switch back to the core stream can you?**

A: A transfer from the French Immersion program into the English program requires teachers, school staff and parent/guardians to follow Board policy and procedures. When a child is experiencing challenges in their French Immersion program, as with any program, educators will communicate with parents/guardians and will provide appropriate supports to help support learning.

An emphasis on retention of the student is of primary importance. Parents/guardians will meet with the school and be provided with an action plan to support their child in their continued learning in French. Should the child continue to experience difficulty after all measures have been put in place over a period of time to support the child in the French Immersion program, a decision may be made to transfer the child. Parents/guardians would be involved in the Board procedure process to transfer their child out of the program and will be required to provide informed written consent.

**Q : What high school offers French immersion?**

A : St Mary (Pickering), Father Leo Austin (Whitby), Notre Dame (Ajax).

**Q : Can I know when the registration will open?**

A: Registration opens December 3<sup>rd</sup> and closes January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Q : What is looked at when accepting the child into the grade 1 program?**

A: All children are considered. Nothing is looked at per se. After the close of the online registration period, places will be assigned to all students that have registered (provided that the number of students registered meets the minimum threshold for establishing a class). At schools where demand exceeds capacity, students will be placed in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Students whose home address falls within the boundaries of the requested French Immersion school.
2. Students who have requested cross boundary approval due to the location of their childcare (the specific, valid address of the childcare must be included in the online registration).
3. Students who have requested cross boundary approval on account of having siblings that will be in attendance in a French Program at the requested school where space allows. Please note that Kindergarten siblings (both Year 1 and Year 2 of Kindergarten) who are accepted at an out-of-area French Immersion school with their older sibling(s) will be provided transportation for Kindergarten. Continued transportation will be provided granted that they enter into the Grade One French Immersion program. Students who are attending

on a cross boundary in grades not mentioned above, will not be eligible to receive transportation.

Primary classes are capped at 20 (with approval of the Area Superintendent some primary classes may be expanded to 23).

**Q : Hi, I missed the portion about the registration process. Are there no interviews?**

A : No interviews. All children are considered.

**Q : Is there one teacher per classroom?**

A: French Immersion classrooms have one teacher like English stream classrooms.

**Q : Other boards offer extended French (entry usually in grade 4) does the DCDSB offer a program like this?**

A: Unfortunately, Extended French was phased out of our board and is no longer offered. Currently, DCDSB only offers French Immersion or Core French.

**Q : My child is already attending senior kindergarten St. Patrick and they offer French immersion. Do I still have to register her for grade 1 French immersion at St Patrick?**

A: St. Patrick is a unique school since it is a French Centre, meaning French Immersion is the only track available (no English stream). Therefore, if your child is enrolled in FDK at St Patrick's, your child will automatically be enrolled in French Immersion at that location. This is the only location where Grade 1 FI registration is NOT required.

**Q : Will English literacy be supported at all? My child is not yet reading in English.**

A : English literacy will not be supported until Grade 4. All subject areas in Grades 1-3 French Immersion are taught in French except for the Religion and Family Life programs. Reading instruction will be provided in French only. Skills in this area that are taught at school can be supported by parents/guardians at home as you explore reading together in English or your home language. This will help to support the transfer of skills from one language to the other. Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide a literacy rich environment at home to help build strong reading and writing skills for children.

**Q : If an older sibling is enrolled in French Immersion and a younger sibling would like to enroll in French Immersion as well, will priority be given to the younger sibling to be enrolled in the same program at the same school?**

A: All students who apply during the online registration process will be offered a position in the French Immersion Program (except in the case where the minimum number of students enrolled does not meet the threshold to establish a class).

Where space permits and after “in boundary” students and students with childcare in area have been accommodated, consideration will be given to cross boundary approvals for families requesting a particular school where siblings are in attendance. Please note that in this instance if a cross boundary is approved, students will not be eligible for transportation.

Kindergarten students who have requested cross-boundary approval because their sibling attends the French Immersion program, will be accepted where space allows at the following sites for the 2021-22 academic year:

- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
- St. Leo Catholic School
- St. Monica Catholic School
- St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School
- St. Joseph Catholic School (Uxbridge)

Parents/guardians must first enroll their Kindergarten son/daughter at their home school (the school associated with their home address) and then complete an Exception to School Attendance Areas application, which must be approved by the Home School and French Program School Principals. A waitlist will be established at these schools as required and parents and guardians will be directed to register at their child’s home school for Kindergarten.

Due to enrollment pressure at some of our elementary schools, out of area applications for Kindergarten students will not be accepted at the following sites for the 2021-22 academic year:

- St. Christopher Catholic School,
- St. James Catholic School,
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic School,
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School,
- St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School, and
- St. Patrick Catholic School (includes a limit of 45 new Kindergarten students)

Kindergarten siblings (both Year 1 and Year 2) who are accepted at an out-of-area French Immersion school with their older sibling(s) will be provided transportation for Kindergarten. Continued transportation will be provided granted that they enter into the Grade 1 French Immersion program.

**Q : Are there split classes in the French immersion program?**

Like any program, split classes are a possibility.

**Q : How does the DCDSB ensure that FI streams are integrated with English peers to prevent a two-tiered system within immersion schools?**

A: For dual track schools (English stream and French stream), there are many opportunities to integrate classes of the same grade in order to collaborate on various school initiatives to build rapport and amity e.g., class/grade performances, school sports teams, class/grade-hosted assemblies, science fairs, field trips, groupwork, combined lessons when applicable, team building challenges, and more. Educators find that, when possible, such collaboration helps immensely to prevent a two-tiered system within immersion schools. DCDSB educators are committed to promoting an inclusive learning environment for all.

**Q : What book do you recommend we get to have a head start with engaging with our child in French?**

Reading in any language will benefit your child since language skills are transferable. I would recommend books that feature audio components which you can find at your local library.

**Q : Where can we find French sports outside of school in Durham area?**

A: We do not know of specific French sports opportunities in the Durham region, however; here are some camps and websites that offer bilingual opportunities for French Language Learners: <https://www.frenchstreet.ca/en/>, Club Optimiste francophone de Durham: <https://www.cofd.ca/en/>