

**LANGUAGE POLICY**  
**Pierrefonds Community High School**

“The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”

– Ludwig Wittgenstein

Pierrefonds Community High School is a public English High School in the Lester B. Pearson School Board of approximately 1000 students.

In order to attend an English school in Quebec, students must have a *Certificate of Eligibility*, which is provided if a student, sibling, or parent has completed most of their elementary school education in English.

There are some International students at PCHS, as well as some students whose mother tongue is not English or French, but the majority of our students have only been in the English school system. All English elementary schools offer *French Immersion* programmes and some even offer *Français Plus*, therefore French as a second language is not new to most students.

The Ministry of Education of Quebec (Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur) requires that all English high schools in Quebec offer a minimum of 150 hours of instruction in French for Years 1 to 3 and a minimum of 100 hours for Years 4 and 5.

In addition to the 150 hours of instruction in French, other classes in Humanities, Arts, and Ethics are offered in French. This accelerated French Immersion programme allows our students to obtain a French Immersion recognition at graduation.

At PCHS, language development plays an important role. It is seen as integral to the enhancement of critical thinking skills. The ability to communicate in more than one language also promotes intercultural understanding. Therefore, many support systems to enhance language learning also exist in the school. These can take the form of:

- Teacher tutorials and extra help
- “Francization” - a subsidized programme that allows students who are weak in French to receive extra instruction
- The Learning Centre - our Resource Department
- Peer tutors

There are eight programmes offered at PCHS:

1. IBMYP
2. French Immersion
3. English Core
4. VEEP

5. WOTP
6. CFER (a type of WOTP program)
7. Visions (students who are academically capable of graduating, semestered courses with fewer teachers)
8. Crossroads
9. ALPS - Alternate Learning Programs (fully modified academic programs) for secondary 1 to 3 students.

The amount of language instruction time varies in each course, but the philosophy of language development and the support provided to our students are consistent in all programmes of study.

### **IBMYP**

Approximately 25% of our student population is enrolled in the IB programme.

- French as a second language is offered 6 days (out of a 9-day cycle) in 75-minute periods
- Other courses (such as Humanities, Ethics) are also offered in French
- Language instruction in French varies by grade level according to the [Language and acquisition subject guide](#):
  - Year 1: Language acquisition (Phase 2)
  - Year 2: Language acquisition (Phase 3)
  - Year 3: Language acquisition (Phase 4)
  - Year 4: Language acquisition (Phase 5)
  - Year 5: Language acquisition (Phase 5)

### **French Immersion**

Approximately 25% of our student population is enrolled in the French Immersion programme.

- French as a second language is offered 6 days (out of a 9-day cycle) in 75-minute periods
- Other courses (such as Humanities, Ethics) are also offered in French

### **English Core**

Approximately 34% of our student population is enrolled in the English Core programme.

- French as a second language is offered 6 days (out of a 9-day cycle) in 75-minute periods
- All other subjects are taught in English

### **Alternative Learning Programmes: Crossroads, VEEP, WS, WOTP and VISIONS**

Approximately 16% of our student population is enrolled in our alternative programmes wherein students receive French as a second language instruction for 6 days (out of a 9-day cycle) in 75-minute periods.