

LANGUAGE POLICY
Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School

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

– Ludwig Wittgenstein

Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School is a public English high school in the Lester B. Pearson School Board of approximately 750 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, therefore French as a second language is not new to most students.

The Ministry of Education of Quebec (Ministère de l'Éducation et Enseignement Supérieur) requires that all English high schools in Quebec offer a minimum of 150 hours of instruction in French for Years 1 to 5*. IBMYP students are offered 50 hours of instruction in Spanish, a third language, for Years 1 to 3. For most of our students, Spanish is a new language.

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 “Programme Enrichi” certification at the end of Year 5.

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 six programmes offered at PCHS:

1. IBMYP
2. French Immersion
3. English Core

4. VEEP
5. Work-Study
6. WOTP (Work Oriented Training Path - Pre-work and Semi-skilled)

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 35% 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:
 - 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)
- A third language, Spanish, is also offered in Years 1 to 3 for 2 days (out of a 9-day cycle) in 75-minute periods.

French Immersion

Approximately 37% 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 20% 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.
- Other courses (such as Ethics, Arts) are also offered in French

Alternative Learning Programmes: VEEP, WS, WOTP

Approximately 8% 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.