



Curriculum Policy

Reviewed by the Proprietor, September 2018

Introduction

Le Hérisson School is an independent French speaking preschool in London. We provide an education which follows the *French Maternelle Nationale* curriculum and integrates the British Early Years Foundation System. We teach the *French Maternelle Curriculum* in the French language. As an *Ecole Homologuée*: our school is officially recognized by the French Department of Education (*Ministère de l'Education Nationale*) and has a partnership with AEFÉ (*Agence pour l'Enseignement du Français à l'Etranger*); as such is part of the *French Réseau* in London. We are subject to regular inspections and training from the Inspector for French National Education, whilst retaining our independence. As a "*Ecole Homologuée*", we are obliged to follow the French Education system, as laid down in the programmes of *L'Education Nationale Française* ("*programmes de l'école maternelle*") <http://www.education.gouv.fr>

Although most of our pupils are French or British nationals, all nationalities are welcome and will receive a French pre-school education. We welcome children between the ages of 2 and 6 years who are split into 4 classes, dependent on their date of birth. Unlike its British equivalent, the French system works on the calendar year of entry for pupils calculated from 1st January – 31st December rather than 1st September – 31st August.

At Le Hérisson School we aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment where the teaching inspires a love for learning. We encourage children to trust in their own ability whilst developing an inquisitive mind which we strive to achieve by incorporating the EYFS within the *French Maternelle Programme*.

The English and French methodology of teaching and timescales for achieving certain levels of achievement are quite different. This is recognized and accepted by both systems. At Le Hérisson School we comply with the EYFS and have learnt to incorporate both systems to give a balanced approach to children's learning and to ensure English culture is incorporated into the learning process for all the children. Our teachers in the French Maternelle Classes are native French speakers, so not only do they bring their linguistic knowledge to the classroom, but also their cultural awareness.

Most of our pupils continue their education in the French educational system however some families chose to transition to the British system at 4 years of age.

Class overview

The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) planning and observation system is in place in our Bilingual Early Years Class and the teaching staff actively encourage children's interests and offer them opportunities to explore. This class is our immersion class and both French and English is spoken throughout the day.

Children in the Petite Section, Moyenne Section and Grande Section follow the teachings of the new *French Maternelle Curriculum* in French and benefit from the planning and observation system of the EYFS.

The children are encouraged to be independent and to make their own choices from a wide range of different activities. A structured day is centered on individual learning where progress is carefully observed and recorded. Learning through play is encouraged and activities are carefully planned to suit the children's interests.

Planning

Teachers are responsible for their class planning however both class and team meetings are held regularly to monitor, evaluate, and review schemes of work. Lesson plans are established according to the curriculum, in line with the long-term planning and in consideration with the *Project de l'école*.

English curriculum

English is taught as a second language by the school's EAL (English as an Additional Language) teacher. Please refer to the EAL Policy.

Assessment and Reports

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Teachers regularly plan, observe, and assess children's learning to ensure that children's developmental needs are being met. Parents are regularly informed of the academic progress of their child and are given the opportunity to view their children's work towards the end of the academic year.

Complying with the *French Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale*, teachers evaluate children's' skills ("compétences"). They report to parents twice a year in our Maternelle Classes. Teachers aim to inform parents in a timely, clear and positive manner and parents are always available to meet with teachers and their children's key worker.

School Day

The doors open at 8:45am however we welcome early arrivals at 8:20am. Teachers welcome pupils to their classes and the day starts promptly at 9:00. The school day ends at 3:15am excluding Wednesday afternoons where we finish at 12:00. We encourage families to observe those times to ensure a good start to the day for all.

Extracurricular Activities / Wednesday Afternoons

Le Hérisson provides an option for Parents who wish to extend their child's Wednesday session until 15:15. Children who participate in this will be cared for by members of staff and are collected by 15:15 on Wednesday afternoons.

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