



French First Language Option

Available to primary classes
in the
2016-17 academic year

Why are we including a French programme at Green Shoots?

- We recognise the importance of French for many members of our community and are committed to meeting their needs.
- Developing bilingual skills at a young age has multiple benefits for children as they grow.

What are we offering?

- Primary-aged children who already speak French will be offered the opportunity to choose French as their first language studies.
- They will participate in French classes for 5 hours per week, covering first-language curriculum.
- In addition, they will have 1-1.5 hours of first-language English each week, to support learning in other subject areas.
- All other subjects will be as per the British National Curriculum with our regular classes.

How will this programme work?

- First-language French classes will be offered to three groups: Years 1-2, Years 3-4, and Years 5-6. The classes are designed for children who already speak French at home.
- French-stream students will study French language when English-stream students study English language curriculum.
- We allocate 6-6.5 hours per week for first-language study in English, while our French programme will offer 5 hours of French learning. Therefore, our French-stream students will be able to participate in English studies for 1-1.5 hours each week. Teachers will ensure that this shared time is allocated for some of the following learning activities: spelling and vocabulary, 1:1 guided reading and literacy centres, handwriting and/or phonics.

Language options at Green Shoots:

- From the 2016-17 academic year, primary students will be able to choose their first language studies in either French or English.
- All primary students will learn Vietnamese as a second language.
- All secondary students will learn English as their first language with the option of French, Mandarin or Vietnamese as a second language.
- Depending on demand and Green Shoots' teaching capacity, the first-language French programme may be extended to secondary students at a later date. This is not yet confirmed.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my mainly French-speaking child cope in subject areas such as Mathematics when lessons will be taught in English?

- In most international school settings, students from all cultures, languages and backgrounds come together in shared learning environments and this will be the case for our French-speaking learners.
- Our teachers offer a differentiated learning programme where they ensure students can access the curriculum by implementing a range of teaching strategies. Some of these strategies include:
 - Small group EAL (English as an Additional Language) intervention classes;
 - Beginners' phonics lessons;
 - Hands-on, practical and inquiry-based learning through the IPC programme;
 - The use of visual aids in lessons and hand-outs to reinforce class learning; and
 - Classroom support by our teaching assistants who work closely with the class teacher.
- Our new programme will allow for plenty of cross-curricular learning along with the opportunity to develop bilingual, lifelong learners.

Will my child be able to enrol in school in France?

- Ms Amélie has contacted the French Embassy in Hanoi and has confirmed that up until the age of 16, when schooling in France stops being compulsory, all children residing in France have the right to enrol in French public schools. The students may be asked to take a French language exam to determine the level of entry but not having been enrolled in a CNED programme or a registered French international school elsewhere is no hindrance to this.

How will my child cope with multiple teachers?

- Children in primary schools often deal with specialist teachers for foundation subjects such as Music and Drama, Art and Design and Health and Physical Education. This variety gives our learners the opportunity to interact with different teaching styles and methods in engaging, creative and practical learning environments.
- Your child will still spend the majority of their school week with their homeroom teacher which will allow for the opportunity to develop important bonds made between teachers and students in primary classrooms while giving them the opportunity to develop their Personal Learning Goal, *Adaptability* by learning with different teachers for different subjects.

How will I know if my child is achieving at a level comparable to the French curriculum standard?

- Green Shoots International School follows the British National Standards for assessment and we have developed an effective and detailed method for recording assessment and student attainment.
- Our French programme will follow and implement the National Curriculum as determined by the French Ministry of Education and we will use the French curriculum learning goals within our style and standards of assessment record-keeping to assess progress.
- Our Assessment Coordinator will continue to ensure that all Green Shoots teachers are documenting their students' progress according to the school's protocol.

What if my child needs additional support in English language subjects?

- Teachers at Green Shoots provide differentiated lessons that follow curriculum guidelines while paying close attention to the individual learning needs of our students. English lessons are often structured according to ability and our teachers allow for mixed ability learning where possible. Teachers provide lessons that meet the learning needs of all students, then differentiate the learning tasks according to students' abilities.
- Green Shoots International School currently provides for EAL learners who are supported by their class teacher and our classroom-teaching assistants.
- If needed, the classroom teacher may organise small group or one-on-one intervention lessons. This learning content is planned by the class teacher as per each student's individual needs, and is taught by the class teaching assistant who provides effective feedback to the class teacher. The class teacher also checks the student learning activities. With this verbal and written feedback, the class teacher determines future lesson content.
- Small group and one-to-one lessons focus on basic English vocabulary, foster confidence with speaking and listening skills and may also include beginners' phonics lessons so children have the necessary skills in becoming independent writers. The teaching assistant may also include appropriate vocabulary that will further enable the EAL learners to access the mathematics and IPC curricula.
- If additional support is required, Green Shoots can assist by providing an IEP (Individualised Education Programme), which might require specific hours of allocated support. If such support is required in addition to our existing differentiated learning programme for EAL learners, the parents provide the cost of this support. (Please see our Fee Policy for further details.)

Can you tell me more about the National Curriculum and the IPC (International Primary Curriculum) that Green Shoots uses?

- **The National Curriculum** provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. The National Curriculum is just one element in the education of every child.
- Teachers follow **The National Curriculum** specifications to ensure they are meeting student learning goals and assessment standards. They utilise this guidance and apply it to a range of learning activities as per the Green Shoots philosophy of education.
- **The National Curriculum** provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.
- **The International Primary Curriculum (IPC)** is a comprehensive, thematic and creative curriculum for 3-12 year olds. It emphasises learning through the development of knowledge, skills and understanding and has specific learning goals for every lesson and subject. It fosters and develops international mindedness and personal learning development.