



L'ÉCOLE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL

A HISTORY OF FRENCH IMMERSION-AN EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

French Immersion, a French as a Second Language enrichment programme, had its early beginnings in Montreal in the 1960s. In Ontario, it began in the Ottawa area and it has grown and flourished in many areas of Ontario. Because it is committed to quality programming, KPR was one of the first boards in Ontario to introduce French Immersion in its schools. In 1973/74, a committee, appointed by the Board, recommended that French Immersion instruction be offered at the Kindergarten level. As a result, a pilot programme began at C.R. Gummow Public School, Cobourg, in September 1974. The programme expanded to include Ontario Street Public School in Bowmanville. There are also other immersion schools in KPR, but Duke of Cambridge is the only French Immersion Centre.

From the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Policy the programme is designed to provide students with the skills they need to communicate in a Second Language, and thereby to enhance their ability to perform effectively and meet with success in a rapidly changing global economy. This is accomplished through the development of strong fundamental skills in oral communication (listening and speaking), reading and writing. Students are also provided with an understanding of the cultures of French-speaking societies by integrating cultural study into daily language instruction. By the end of their secondary studies, students will participate easily in conversations and discussions, will be able to take courses at the college or university level in which French is the language of instruction and will be able to accept employment in which French is the working language.

As a small indicator of the success of the programme, the KPR board has a number of French teachers who are former graduates of their own Immersion programme. The French Immersion Programme is open to all students. Even if a child does not achieve at Levels 3 or 4, research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning, problem solving and creative thinking skills. In this way, second language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the work place and the global economy. There is no additional cost to the parent for the programme. Therefore, Clarington parents do have a choice in their child's educational opportunities.

Many parents worry that because they are not French speaking, it will place them at a disadvantage. At Duke of Cambridge, a full Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 French Immersion Centre, there are more than 630 families. Less than 5% of the parents speak French. It is not an expectation or a requirement that one or both parents be French speaking. All correspondence from the school office is provided in English. If a student experiences difficulty with his/her French-language studies, the teacher, the parents and the school resources work collaboratively to provide extra help or remediation.

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is French Immersion?

A unique opportunity for your child to learn a second language - French - the mother tongue of 25% of all Canadians and 10% of Ontarians. French is the language of instruction for most of the child's learning at the elementary level. The entry point is at the beginning of September at the Senior Kindergarten level. It is the most effective method known for learning a second language. It provides more time to work in second language learning situations... and more time results in more learning. Essentially, children will learn the language as a vehicle of expression in other curriculum areas rather than learning about language in isolation. Our aim is functional bilingualism. This means that at the end of their secondary studies, the students can take further education in a French setting and receive training and employment in French, after some period of adjustment.

2. What are the aims of the program?

- ✓ . To promote communication in French.
- ✓ . To develop each child's ability to communicate effectively in a French setting.
- ✓ . To nurture good will towards fellow Canadians whose first language is French.
- ✓ . To encourage an understanding of the culture of French-Canada and the French-speaking world.

3. Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?

The curriculum follows the guidelines of the Ontario Ministry of Education with modifications to allow for emphasis on language development. Teaching and learning resources in French cover the same basic programme as in English, although perhaps in a different sequence. Students work toward the same academic goals regardless of the language of instruction. (www.gov.edu.on.ca)

4. Will my child be behind in English if he or she takes French Immersion?

Evaluations of Immersion programmes across Canada have indicated that although there are certain lags in English language skills for the first few years of the program, the children in Immersion very quickly catch up, keep pace with, or surpass children in a regular program, once English is introduced. It is important that you read stories in English at home and expose your child to English songs, nursery rhymes and books that will enrich his/her first language experience.

5. What if my child experiences difficulties in French Immersion?

For example, children who may have difficulty learning to read in English may have difficulty learning to read in French. It is generally the actual reading skills that these children have trouble with, not the language. Begin with your classroom teacher. Have conversations about how you may better support your child at home. Ongoing communication

between the school and the home is beneficial to your child=s progress. Resource staff and the principal are available to help.

6. How can I help my child?

From the early stages of the programme, parents can be of great assistance by being supportive of the programme. You can discuss what happens at school with your child. You can read regularly to your child in English or simply talk frequently to your child about new experiences. Reading for pleasure should be encouraged in both French and English. In this way, your child=s English vocabulary will be enriched and his/her self-confidence will grow. You can enjoy French cultural and language opportunities together. Participation in French-language exchanges, summer camps, and youth conferences will also help. At a later stage, certain portions of the programme are conducted in English, and parents can be of direct assistance here.

Most often, if a child is experiencing difficulties in a particular subject area, the confusion lies with the concept, not the language. Discuss and explain the concept in English. Parents can also provide valuable assistance in the preparation of speeches and projects, especially in the areas of research, planning and presentation of materials.

7. Is transportation provided?

Yes transportation is provided within defined attendance boundaries.

8. Will French benefit my child's future?

- ✓ .It provides an opportunity for students to communicate fluently in French.
- ✓ .It helps a child develop a sensitivity to ethnic and cultural similarities and differences.
- ✓ .It facilitates the acquisition of other languages.
- ✓ .It may lead to employment opportunities where French is required.

IF you have any further questions, please contact Duke of Cambridge at

dukeofcambridgeps@kprdsb.ca

or by calling the office. (905) 623-5437



FRENCH IMMERSION SENIOR KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION PACKAGE



SK FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

**Duke of Cambridge Public School
47 Liberty Street North
Bowmanville, ON L1C 2L8**

Parents considering Early French Immersion for their children often have questions and this meeting is offered to provide some answers to those questions.

Children born between January 1 and December 31, 2016 are eligible for admission at the Senior Kindergarten level for the 2021-2022 school year. We will also accept students entering Grade 1, without prior French Immersion, should parents be interested.

Registration opens in January 2021

Attached please find a registration package. You can also print the registration package at www.kprschools.ca When you return your package, please ensure you bring the following documentation:

- **Proof of Birth for Student (birth certificate/passport/Statement of Live Birth)**
- **Current Immunization Record (we will forward this onto the Durham Health Unit on your behalf)**
- **Proof of address (Driver's License/piece of mail/P&S Agreement or Lease)**

If your child was born out of country the following is also required 1) Citizenship & Immigration Canada Documentation ie: Confirmation of Permanent Residence/Permanent Resident Card/Study Permit/Visitor Record/Consideration of Eligibility (Convention Refugee) OR 2) Passport (stamped)

For further information contact:
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