



Green Shoots

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FRENCH PROGRAMME

1 INTRODUCTION

Green Shoots International School offers its students the opportunity to develop French language skills, both as a mother tongue and as a foreign language. Mother tongue classes take place daily alongside the UK's National Curriculum expectations for English, while foreign language classes are offered twice per week as part of the schools' written curriculum followed by all students.

The Mother Tongue programme is designed for students who are fluent in French. It is open to all francophone children, whether French is their first or their second language, as long as they possess a strong enough foundation in the language to operate at a mother-tongue level. It is offered to children from Year 1 to Year 11 (IGCSE).

Our French as a Foreign Language programme starts in Reception and continues to build French-language ability to IGCSE-level. It aims to teach students how to communicate in French, starting at a beginner level and building to advanced foreign language proficiency by the time they take their IGCSE exams. The programme is open to all students enrolled at school who are not already enrolled in the French Mother tongue programme, or attending EAL classes.

2 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Students who enrol in our **Mother Tongue French programme** should be capable of using the French language at an age-appropriate level. The final aim is to secure knowledge, skills and understanding in the French language, allowing for the possibility of a seamless reintegration into the French educational system. As such, the objectives of the programme are aligned with the skills outlined by French National curriculum documentation. However, we consider the educational profile of each student enrolling into this programme and so adaptations are made to accommodate individual students' needs. This programme runs from Year 1 to Year 9.

Before beginning Year 10, each student's ability will be assessed by Green Shoots staff and students will be offered entry into **either** the First Language (mother tongue IGCSE *Course 0501*) or Foreign Language IGCSE programme (Course 0520), depending on their language ability at the end of Year 9.

The Green Shoots **French Foreign language programme** has been developed based on the

CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) objectives and runs from Reception through to Year 9. It may lead to DELF/DALF examination through the French Institute if the family wishes. The level required for starting IGCSE French Foreign Language course 0520 is A2/B1 of the CEFR, which can be assessed at school by our teachers at the end of Year 9. It is not possible to start an IGCSE foreign language course with no prior exposure to the language.

3 COURSE DETAILS

3a *Mother Tongue French*

Primary

Our KS1 and KS2 curricula are broadly based on Cycle Two and Three of the French primary school learning objectives. Green Shoots programme is tailored to the specific needs of each class and each child and a progression is adapted and differentiated to meet individual needs. The timetable includes five periods of learning each week (one lesson per day) while their English-speaking classmates follow the English National Curriculum. French mother tongue students join their homegroup class for all other subjects, which are taught in English. Their course focuses on four skills in French:

- Speaking and listening
- Reading and comprehension
- Writing: Composition
- Writing: Transcription, Grammar and Punctuation

At Green Shoots, the teacher sets up active learning through motivating and differentiated activities. They place each student at the heart of teaching and learning by adapting to their individual needs. Green Shoots students have a programme of personal learning goals and core values that encourage the positive personal development of each child. The French programme aligns with these values and helps children become more aware of their environment and issues around sustainability so that they become responsible and independent citizens.

Lower Secondary (Years 7 to 9)

Our Lower Secondary Mother Tongue programme combines two language classes with two History classes each week, both taught in French. This is to extend students' vocabulary and skills and make French a 'working language' through which they must interpret and use information in another academic discipline.

The Language course

This is guided by Cycle 3 and 4 of the French Secondary school objectives and is tailored to help students build writing and reading skills (spelling, syntax, conjugation, vocabulary

The History course

This is taught when Anglophone students are covering similar content in English, enabling all students to complete a programme of similar historical concepts but through different language mediums. The course covers different historical periods, from The Roman Civilisation to the 20th Century, and is structured to create connections between the ancient and modern

development and grammar).

The course also focuses on the study of literature, through poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Aural objectives include presentation and discourse, which aim to give to each student the skills needed to progress to our IGCSE Mother Tongue course.

worlds in areas of global interest such as politics, religion, civilization, colonisation etc. Students will:

- develop critical thinking skills;
- identify, compare and contrast historical events;
- analyze trends and make connections;
- undertake research to understand and explain historical issues.

Through the course, students develop tools for personal expression, perspective, debate and the ability to listen respectfully in French as well as in English.

Upper Secondary (Years 10 and 11)

In this final stage of their education at Green Shoots, Mother Tongue students will work towards a French First Language IGCSE (Course Code 0501). This two-year programme focuses primarily on reading and writing/composition skills, ensuring that students develop the ability to create and dissect a piece of writing with mother-tongue fluency.

3b French as a Foreign Language

Reception

In this first year, the learning objectives are based on the development of aural skills (listening and speaking). It is an introduction to the language through which children make initial inroads into the French language by learning basic vocabulary and structure around themes: introducing yourself, colours, numbers up to 10, animals etc. The lessons employ motivational and engaging activities like songs and story telling.

Primary and Lower Secondary

From Year 1 to Year 9, the programme is sequenced to ensure the progression of the students' learning at their appropriate level. Classes cover a range from Beginner to Advanced level. The lessons are designed to be fun, motivating and active, with a focus on active communication. Our lessons follow a similar trajectory to the French Institute and *Alliance Française*, which follows the CEFR and prepares students for DELF/DALF examinations. Two periods per week are dedicated to these lessons with a focus upon four skills: Speaking, Listening, Writing & Reading Comprehension.

Our French Foreign Language course prepares students for the IGCSE French Foreign Language programme (Course code 0520), which is offered in Years 10 and 11 (see next section).

Upper Secondary (Years 10 and 11)

The French Foreign Language course is, again, a two year programme which aims to develop the use of language for the purpose of practical communication. The vocabulary, grammar and skills taught are applicable to real world scenarios, with an emphasis on speaking and listening for travel and effective communication within a Francophone country. The four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing are simultaneously developed over the two year course, while cultural

awareness and empathy are also developed using a topic-based approach, through study in the following areas:

- At home and abroad
- Education & employment
- House, home and daily routine
- The modern world and the environment
- Social activities, fitness and health

To gain access to this course, incoming students must demonstrate a minimum CEFR level of A2/B1 (this usually equates to having studied French for a minimum of two years). Green Shoots conducts an in-house language assessment for new students to decide upon his or her eligibility to enrol in this programme.

4 ASSESSMENT

Primary and Lower Secondary

Both the Mother Tongue and Foreign Language courses taught up to Year 9 are assessed internally by Green Shoots staff through formative and summative assessment tasks.

In Foreign Language classes, students take regular tests at the end of each unit; the tests cover all 4 skills. In Mother Tongue classes, students are assessed through weekly spelling checks, dictations and grammar exercises. Our teachers evaluate the progress of the students with formative assessments throughout their learning.

In the Mother Tongue Programme the marking criteria are based on the French National Education ones. In Secondary school, students are also assessed through presentations, oral argumentations and extended essays that they are working on in cooperation with their teacher which involve further research completed at home.

IGCSE

Our IGCSE courses are assessed through examinations that are set and marked externally by the Cambridge examinations board. Green Shoots prepares students for these exams by using past exam papers, setting mock exams and marking essays on a regular basis.

The **First Language IGCSE (course 0501)** is assessed by Cambridge through two written exams:

- Reading (50%): Students read two unseen extracts from fiction or non-fiction sources and demonstrate the ability to comprehend, analyse and summarise textual detail.
- Directed Writing & Composition (50%): This paper first requires students to respond to a piece of text by developing a composition. Then it asks them to compose an extended piece of work, choosing from a range of descriptive or narrative questions.

The **Foreign Language IGCSE (0520)** is assessed through four exams, two written and two aural:

- Writing (25%): Three writing tasks are completed in response to topic-based questions.
- Reading (25%): Comprehension questions based on a number of written texts.
- Listening (25%): Comprehension questions based on recordings.
- Speaking (25%): Two Role plays, a topic-based conversation and a general conversation.