



Parapluie FLAM



**L'ÉCOLE
FRANÇAISE
DE BRISTOL**

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The Fonthill centre
Bristol
BS10 5SJ

enquiries@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org

**PRIMARY DAY RELEASE CLASSES FOR BILINGUAL CHILDREN/ classes FLAM
INFORMATION LETTER AND ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025-2026**

The Ecole Française de Bristol

Established in 1980 as a Saturday morning club by three French parents in a community hall, our institution, L'École Française de Bristol, has evolved significantly over the decades. Today, we teach over 250 pupils every week and stand as a pillar of support for our regional community of francophones and francophiles. Operating as both a registered charity (Charity Number 900410) and limited company (Company Number 02463900), our school is governed by volunteer Directors, complemented by an advisory board of parents, professionals, the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, and the School Business Manager. Parents play an integral role as members of the school, actively participating in their children's learning, attending community and fundraising events as well as our annual AGM.

School office

Open term-time Monday to Friday 8.00 am until 4.00 pm. Tel. 0117 969 2410.

For all enquiries please contact our administrative team on enquiries@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org

Primary classes one day per week, from Reception to Year 6, on "day release" from English primary schools

We offer "day release" classes / Français Langue Maternelle (known as FLAM) for native French speakers who attend **one** full day per week in an immersion programme.

In the United Kingdom, children typically attend school over a span of five days per week. Therefore, it is necessary for parents to obtain approval from the headteacher of their child's English primary school before the child can enrol in one of our classes for one day per week.

The school day at L'École Française de Bristol (EFB) runs from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, unless exceptional circumstances arise, such as attending their primary school for part or all of the day for special events or medical appointments.

We offer an optional wraparound service, "Garderie" before class from 8.00 am until 9.00 and/or from 3.30 pm until 5.30 pm.

School catchment areas exist in Bristol and other counties, and we collaborate with approximately 65 schools. We do not provide a list of schools that accept our day release programme, as it is at the discretion of individual schools to determine if each pupil can effectively participate in our day release programme and if it aligns with their best interests. We therefore refrain from offering recommendations for specific schools.

Please ask for our "**Day Release Factsheet for Expatriate Families**" for information about education systems etc.

Curriculum

We offer a bespoke programme based on the French Education Nationale curriculum in the context of immersion. This unique curriculum enables bilingual children to develop competences in reading and writing in French focusing on the structured study of grammar, conjugation, and spelling.

The primary goals of our curriculum are to enhance comprehension, oral and written language skills in French, and to deepen cultural knowledge. These objectives are structured across three key stages:

Cycle des apprentissages premiers (Reception / Grande Section)

Cycle des apprentissages fondamentaux: oral language, writing, reading, comprehension, and language study (CP, CE1, and CE2 curriculum)

Cycle de consolidation de la langue: oral language, writing, reading, comprehension, and language study (vocabulary, spelling, conjugation, grammar) (CM1 to CM2 curriculum)

Students focus on developing proficiency in speaking and writing, as well as comprehension of both spoken and written French. Additionally, emphasis is placed on mastering four key tenses: imperfect, present, future, and perfect.

At the end of CM2, children should be ready for our Secondary/GCSE classes.

With a greater understanding of the culture of a language comes the ability to communicate across cultures. We choose our resources carefully and develop activities around major cultural events in France and French-speaking countries throughout the year.

We will organise a visit to make sure our offer matches the needs of your child. The team will be liaising regularly and closely with your family and partner schools about your child's progress and welfare.

Class sizes

Class sizes vary from year to year, but our aim is to maintain small class sizes to facilitate optimal progress for each student.

Allocation of places

The class allocation is decided by our teachers exclusively.

Our pedagogical team takes into account children's learning styles and their wellbeing and how to enable each child to make the best progress within our programme.

The school is unfortunately unable to guarantee that siblings will attend on the same day.

For 2025–2026 the Day Release classes will be organised as follows:

DAY OF THE WEEK/ CLASSES*	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CLASS 1	GS	GS	CE1	CM1/CM2
CLASS 2		CP	CE2/CM1	CM2/CM2+

*This changes every year, depending on the overall number of pupils we expect to register in our immersion programme.

Staff

All classes are run by qualified teachers. Teachers are supported by a team of teaching assistants for all or part of the school day.

Premises

Our facilities include two bright classrooms, a playground with amenities, a garden area where children grow vegetables, fruits, and plants.

Please note that the Fonthill Centre car park is not accessible to parents, in accordance with our lease conditions with Bristol City Council, but there is ample off-street parking available.

Inspections

Classes are inspected by OFSTED.

Our OFSTED registration number is **EY486621**.

Our last inspection was on 26.04.2023 and we were rated “good”. The inspection highlighted that “Children develop a desire to learn and are keen to get involved in the interesting activities on offer to them. All children develop their language and communication skills to a good standard in both their first language and any additional language they speak”.

Communication/Liaison with families

Teachers liaise regularly with families.

Class resources and homework are shared by teachers every week.

We offer one annual Parents evening session, and a written report is given to parents at the end of the year.

Using French regularly at home is essential and we encourage parents and carers to support children's learning at home by doing homework, reading and other activities together in French.

Children with Additional Needs

Mathilde Monnet is our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).

Please do not hesitate to ask for an appointment if you would like to share information about your child with Mathilde, or if you have any queries, on SENCO@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org

Lunchtime

During the lunch break, pupils are under the supervision of our classroom assistant and our lunchtime supervisor. Pupils are required to bring a cold packed lunch (ice packs are recommended as we do not have refrigeration facilities).

We have several children with severe allergies in our school and for their welfare, we aim to keep the school NUT FREE. We ask that parents/carers do not include tree nuts or peanuts in their child's lunchbox. We will advise parents, should additional restrictions need to be introduced, for the welfare of pupils or members of staff.

Snacks

In the morning, we will offer healthy snacks to all children. Additionally, those enrolled in the afternoon Garderie will be provided with a wholesome afternoon snack.

School supplies

The Ecole will provide exercise books, pens, and other necessary supplies.

School events & PTA/"Les Amis"

Several events are organised during the year in each class and for the whole school: Coffee morning with the headteacher, workshops, class shows ... Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to the life of our class.

The PTA, "Les Amis" organises social events during the year to fundraise for the school (Winter Disco, Cheese and Wine Evening, Fête de la Musique...)

Follow on class

We offer an immersion class for bilingual secondary age pupils to enable them to continue their learning and prepare for the French GCSE exam.

**L'ECOLE FRANÇAISE DE BRISTOL
PRIMARY DAY RELEASE CLASSES AND GARDERIE
ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025-2026**

Our day release French immersion programme is a unique service for pupils from Reception to Year 6.

We work in partnership with many local schools, who agree to their pupils attending the Ecole Française de Bristol one day per week, **provided** that those pupils are bilingual as per our teacher assessment **AND** that it is of real benefit to their general education. **Children must be able to follow a native French speaker curriculum.**

We will organise an orientation assessment by our teacher(s), to direct pupils towards the most suitable service: day release class or Saturday Class or After-school class and we will invite applications accordingly and subject to availability.

(Verbal or written) consent must be obtained by parents for the “day release programme for bilingual pupils”, from the headteacher of their child’s main school, prior to registration and continued enrolment is subject to the partners schools’ approval.

Term dates for 2025-2026

The Ecole is open 38 weeks per year, mostly aligned with Bristol City Council’s suggested term dates.

Term 1 (Autumn Term)

- From Monday 8 September to Thursday 23 October 2025

SCHOOL CLOSED all day on INSET days on Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3, Thursday 4, Friday 5 September 2025 and Friday 24 October 2025

- From Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December 2025

SCHOOL CLOSED from 4:30pm for STAFF TRAINING Evening on Wednesday 3 December 2025

Term 2 (Spring Term)

- From Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February 2026

SCHOOL CLOSED from 4:30pm for STAFF TRAINING Evening on Thursday 5 February 2026

- From Monday 23 February to Thursday 2 April 2026

SCHOOL CLOSED on Bank Holiday Friday 3 April 2026

Term 3 (Summer Term)

- From Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May 2026

SCHOOL CLOSED on Bank Holiday Monday 4 May 2026 and INSET day Tuesday 5 May 2026

- From Monday 1 June 2026 to Wednesday 22 July

Deposit and Fees

Please see “***Day Release and Garderie Fees & Financial Assistance 2025-2026***”.

Enrolments

Contact our administrative team at enquiries@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org to schedule a visit with you and your child as well as a meeting with our teacher for a discussion and an orientation assessment.

We will send you a link to our online registration form once you have obtained consent from the main English school for the “day release”.

Following receipt of the online registration form, the deposit and if applicable, the Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) for children who have medical needs, we will offer a start date.

All registrations are subject to availability.

We will give priority to Term 1 admissions, but in-year admissions are possible.

We will guarantee a place, until 7 May 2025 for the enrolment from September 2025 of:

1. Our 2024-2025 pupils for re-registration or for a move to a day release class (Year 1 to Year 6)
2. Our 2024-2025 nursery pupils moving to Grande Section/Reception
3. Siblings of our nursery or day release classes' 2025-2026 pupils

We will register new pupils for all classes from Reception to Year 6, for a start in September 2025, with priority given to the new pupils who have been assessed as able to follow the day release programme at 15.04.2025.

We will operate a waiting list if applicable, on a first-come first served basis.

Changes to registration

See our ***“Terms and Conditions 2025-2026”*** covering changing the agreed start date. All allowable changes require advance written notice and for Term 1 (Autumn Term, from September 2025) please note that the deadline for us to receive this notice is **31 May 2025**.

Cancelling a child's place

See our ***“Terms and Conditions 2025-2026”*** covering not taking up a place after registration or cancelling a child's place from the following term. All changes require advance written notice and for Term 1 (Autumn Term, from September 2025) please note that the deadline for us to receive this notice is **31 May 2025**.