

## Modern Languages at St.George's: a progressive bilingualism

### A guide for parents

Primary School	
Pre-reception Reception year 1 year 2 year 3 year 4 year 5 year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French is introduced gradually from Pre-Reception.</li> <li>• Different sets for Foundation or Higher students are offered from year 2.</li> <li>• An additional Advanced French set is offered from years 3 to 6</li> </ul>
Secondary School	
year 7 year 8 year 9  year 10 IGCSE* programme year 11 IGCSE programme  *IGCSE International General Certificate of Secondary Education  year 12 IB** programme year 13 IB programme  **IB International Baccalaureate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign language Section and French as a Second Language Section</li> <li>• German introduced in year 8</li> <li>• From year 9, students choose either German or Spanish</li> <li>• IGCSE certifications offered in Foreign Language as well as in First Language</li> <li>• French as a Second Language students can follow an IB French programme A2 /A1 designed for bilingual candidates</li> </ul>

### FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

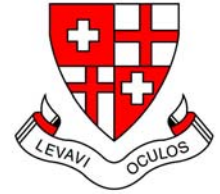
#### 1. What is St. George's language of instruction?

*All non language subjects are taught in English.*

#### 2. My child does not speak very much English. Can he/she still attend St. George's?

*EFL English as a Foreign Language lessons are provided from Primary to Secondary School. The EFL programmes offered take into account the needs of those students who will be at St.George's throughout their studies, as well as the needs of those who come to Switzerland for a shorter length of time.*

*From year 10 to year 13, a specific level is required to follow the IGCSE (years 10 and 11) and the IB programme (years 12 and 13). Please contact the Admissions Department [admissions@st-georges.ch](mailto:admissions@st-georges.ch) for more details.*



**3. Although we are happy for our child to study all subjects in English, we urge him/her to speak French as we live in “Suisse Romande”. When is he/she going to be able to start French?**

*French is a compulsory subject at St. George's. Exception is made for students who have not yet reached an elementary level in English (level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).*

**4. My child has studied some French in the past. Will he/she start a beginner's course again?**

*Students are placed in different groups according to proficiency levels. Assessment is conducted by the Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum Leader before the beginning of the school year. A placement test is given when relevant.*

**5. My child is francophone. Is he/she going to lose his/her level of French at St. George's?**

*There are two different French Sections at St. George's. Basic users follow a Foreign Language programme leading towards Foreign Language IGCSE French at the end of year 11. Students who have reached level 3 (B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages), follow a French as a Second Language programme leading towards the IGCSE First Language French.*

*In years 12 and 13, advanced students can choose either IB French A2 or IB French A1.*

**6. What is the difference between the Foreign Language and the Second Language French programme?**

*In Foreign Language, the emphasis is placed on communication. Students learn to communicate in the target language. Specific objectives are defined in order to develop the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.*

*The French as a Second language programme is designed for students whose mastery of French allows them to cope with an advanced course. Students do not need to be native speakers to follow this course. When the French Department determines that a student has the language skills necessary to cope with an advanced course which also includes literary elements, the student is moved up to this Second Language programme. This course aims to enable students to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in writing, to enable them to understand and respond appropriately to what they read, and to encourage them to enjoy and appreciate the variety of the language. The course complements other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application such as analysis, synthesis or drawing of inferences.*

**7. Apart from English and French, will my child be able to study another language?**

*German is introduced in year 8. At the end of year 8 students are asked either to continue with German or to start Spanish from year 9. These courses lead towards the IGCSE Foreign Language German or Spanish certification at the end of year 11. In years 12 and 13, the IB programme offers the possibility to continue the study of any of these languages.*

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