

Section 14 Education (Welfare) Act, 2000

Assessment of Education in places other than Recognised Schools

Independent School Review Assessment Report



Name of School

Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett - Primaire

Address

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Telephone

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Name of Principal/Director

Anne-Laure Neselrade

Name of Assessor/s

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Date of Assessment

31st January 2023

Date of Final Report

15th June 2023

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Section 1 Background Information

1.1. School Hours

Opening Time:	08:15		
Closing time:	14:40		
Main breaks during the day:	10:20	to	10:40
	12:15	to	13:10

Is school in operation for more than five years?

Yes	
00/00/0000	

If no, please give date on which school commenced operation

1.2. Name(s) of principal and/or other teacher(s) interviewed

(Normally interview should take place with the principal)

Anne-Laure Neselrade

1.3. Sources of evidence on which report is based

This assessment report is based on the following sources of evidence:

- Information furnished in form R2 completed by the principal
- An interview with the principal,
- Classroom visits
- Observation of a sample of learning tasks completed by the pupils
- Observation of the educational materials in use.
- School website
- Preliminary assessment report of November 2018
- School documentation:
 - School calendar
 - Timetables
 - Curriculum
 - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
 - Health and safety statement.

Section 2 General Information and School Context

Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett – Primaire, is the primary section of the *Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett*. It is located in Foxrock, Dublin. The school has a kindergarten and provides primary education to children from age 6 to 11, up to the Irish equivalent of fifth class. *Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett* is a French school that is approved by the *French Ministry of National Education*. It is affiliated with the *Agency for French Teaching Abroad (l'Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Etranger - AEFE)*. The school follows the curriculum of the French Ministry of National Education while taking into account the local environment.

Through its affiliation with the AEFE, the school is part of a network of 522 school located in 139 countries outside France.

Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett was founded in 1971 and offers a multicultural and bilingual environment to its pupils. The primary part of the school is located in Foxrock and the secondary part is in Clonskeagh. The French language is the medium of instruction and administration of the school. There are currently 197 pupils enrolled from senior infants to sixth class, of whom 175 are over the age of six years.

The school is fee-paying. The majority of its pupils come from families with at least one French parent. There are a small number of pupils from families where both parents are Irish. Pupils come from a range of other nationalities. Pupils, whose families are temporarily located in Ireland may come to the school for part of a school year, leaving it as their families leave Ireland. Some of these pupils may be transferring to or from similar French schools in other countries. While a range of languages is spoken in the classrooms, the language of the pupils is mainly English among themselves, and French with teachers.

As required by French law, representatives of the parents of each class meet the principal and the teachers three times a year to discuss school issues. The primary school council consists of teacher and parent representatives and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school. All decisions voted by the primary school council must be ratified by the school council if related to the organisation of the school or by the board of management if of a budgetary nature. The school council looks after all elements of the school – education and school development as a whole.

On admission to the school of their children and at the beginning of each year, parents sign acceptance of the school's rules and policies. Since the pandemic, most day-to-day contact of parents with teachers is through the school's secretary. However, many teachers have blogs and email contact takes place between them and parents. Parents help out with school events such as the end-of-year celebration in June.

The school is a registered charity and has a board of management. At least 6 members must be parents of pupils currently enrolled in the school. The board has responsibility for hiring locally employed staff and for financial matters. There is a monthly formal board meeting. The principal meets the board each week.

Section 3 The Principal and Staff

About half of the staff of the school are employed by the French government and the remainder are employed locally by the school's board of management. All of the teachers are fully qualified, whether French or Irish and including teachers of English and of Irish. As well as the class teachers, the school employ administrators, a French language-support teacher, and teaching assistants. The school has a librarian and part-time special needs assistant. All staff members have been Garda vetted.

There are regular staff meetings. The principal meets the teachers in small groups (senior classes, junior classes) each week and there is a whole staff meeting each month.

The school has a safety statement and a child protection policy that include provision for an annual review. A designated liaison person and a deputy designated liaison person have been appointed. Other school policies include the code of behaviour and the anti-bullying policy.

The school principal is responsible for the supervision of those teachers who are recruited in Ireland. As in all French schools, teachers recruited in France are independent of the school principal. A French government inspector comes to the school each year. The inspector has general supervisory responsibilities for French international schools in Europe and the United Kingdom.

Section 4 Time Devoted to Education

The school is open from 08:15 to 14:40 each day. Each class has a mid-morning break as well as a lunch break. It adheres to the national primary school calendar. The pupils have a 24-hour school week.

The school emphasises the teaching of French. In the two senior classes, 7 hours each week are allocated to the teaching of French, 4 hours are allocated to English, 1.5 hours to Irish, and 5 hours to mathematics.

Section 5 The Learning Environment

The school is well-equipped with classrooms and smaller rooms for use for other activities. The school has a library. The school has a relationship with the adjacent primary schools, St Patrick's Girls National school, and St Patrick's Boys National School, Hollypark, Foxrock. Some sharing of staff takes place with the schools and the schools jointly manage their shared spaces. Two teachers, who are based in the Hollypark schools, teach in the Lycée. They teach English, Irish, Religious Education, and the *Stay Safe* programme. Some of the French-appointed teachers teach English. The girls' and boys' national schools benefit from the work of some LFI teachers in teaching French to their pupils.

Each teacher has a computer and pupils have access to tablets. The school has a gymnasium.

Section 6 The Educational Activities

6.1. General information

Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett – Primaire follows the teaching programmes of the French Ministry for National Education, while taking into account the Irish primary school curriculum. The development of pupils' mastery of French language is at the heart of the syllabus. This is aided by workshops that are organised for small groups of pupils for whom French is not their mother tongue. The English language is emphasised. Each pupil's progress and development is carefully recorded and where necessary individual attention must be given.

The subjects on the school's curriculum include history, geography, and science. For some classes these subjects are taught through English.

The school has a broad extracurricular programme. The after-school programme runs from the end of class each day. Pupils can participate in school-run activities, or in other programmes run on the school premises by outside providers.

During the assessment visit, several classrooms were visited. In second class the pupils were engrossed in making small Valentine's Day presents for their families. One girl was reading a French book. In all the classrooms visited, the pupils were busy with their work. In fifth class pupils were learning mathematics and in fourth class they were busy with art and literature. Children's work was on display in the corridors. Classes are split for some subjects so that pupils can learn in smaller groups. For example, a lesson on some aspects of learning French, and an English lesson could be taking place at the same time.

The school partakes in *Green-Schools*.

6.2. Language and literacy skills

In mastering language and literacy skills, pupils learn to speak, read, and write in French. The teaching and learning of English is an important part of the school's curriculum. While lessons for most subjects for most classes are delivered in French, some lessons are delivered in English.

In first, second and third class, pupils have nine hours of French each week and in the two senior classes they have seven hours. The teaching time for English increases from three hours each week to four hours between senior and junior classes.

The school's library is a support to pupils in learning French and of English.

6.3. Numeracy

Mathematics follows the teaching programme of the French Ministry for National Education. The learning of mathematics and French is the main priority for pupils up to the end of second class.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have learned about numbers and calculation, geometry, quantities and measures, and solving problems.

6.4. Irish

Classes have between one and two hours each week for Irish. The content of the programme is based on the Irish *Primary School Curriculum*.

Children attending an Independent School should be afforded opportunity for the study of Irish, however the study of Irish is not a requirement for registration under Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000. Where Irish is included in the provision, an Independent School may identify students attending that they consider would qualify for an exemption from the study of Irish. Independent Schools can make decisions in consultation with parents regarding arrangements for these children. Any arrangements made in relation to the study of Irish does not entitle students to an exemption from the study of Irish in the event of a subsequent enrolment at a Department of Education recognised school.

Parents of children attending an Independent School should be informed of and acquaint themselves with implications of not taking Irish and/or having a second language. Parents seeking information should consult with the Department of Education www.education.ie and/or the State Examinations Commission www.examinations.ie with regard to the requirement for Irish and/or an additional language

6.5. Other areas of learning

The other subjects on the school's curriculum are PE, arts education, Social, personal and health education (SPHE), history, geography, civics, and science. Pupils learn science, history, and geography through English in fourth class and fifth class. In second and third classes, art and wellbeing are taught through English. All classes are taught the *Stay Safe* programme. Art and music are taught by the teachers appointed from France.

The school produces a show each year and organises occasions for its parents. An end-of-year school celebration takes place each year.

6.6. Special educational needs

At the beginning of the school year additional classes are organised for pupils who may need additional support. The school has a special needs assistant who works on a part-time basis.

Section 7 Assessment and Record Keeping

Student assessment and record keeping is based on the French system. The school uses the Eduka and Pronote software to manage its enrolments and academic records including the results of assessments. These software tools are common to French schools outside France and facilitate transfer of students between school when required.

A well-organised and implemented system of assessment of pupils' progress is in place.

The common basis of knowledge and skills of the French curriculum sets out what every pupil should know and master by the end of compulsory schooling. Each pupil has an individual record of skills attained.

Parents receive reports twice each year in December and June.

Section 8 Other Relevant Information

Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett – Primaire is the primary section of Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett. There are five years in primary school, preceded by a three-year kindergarten. The first three years are called the *cycle apprentissages fondamentaux* where the emphasis is on the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. The final two years is called the *cycle de consolidation*.

Section 9 Evaluation of the Education Provision and Recommendations

The education provided to the pupils of Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett – Primaire can be characterised as “a certain minimum education, moral, intellectual, and social.”

The reasons that that this judgement has been made in respect of the educational provision in the school are the following:

- The school is adhering to the requirements of the French school curriculum together with appropriate elements of the Irish primary school curriculum.
- The teaching of language (French and English) and the teaching of mathematics are based on the requirements of the French national curriculum.
- The school provides a range of other subjects and extracurricular activities that support pupils' development.
- The school has a safety statement that is updated annually and a child safeguarding statement that is being implemented.
- Pupil assessment is an integral part of the education provided in the school.

The findings of the assessment were discussed with the participants on the date of the assessment. The participants were advised that the decision regarding registration would be made by Tusla – the Child and Family Agency: Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service (AEARS).

Following the assessment, a draft report is provided to the principal, along with a Factual Accuracy and Feedback Form, which may be submitted within a specified timeframe, in response to the content of the draft report. The report, along with any information provided on the feedback form for consideration, is brought to the AEARS Registration Panel. The Registration Panel make decisions regarding registration of children in receipt of the education at the Independent School.

Section 10 Discussion of Finding of Report with Principal

The finding of the report was discussed with the principal at the conclusion of the visit on 31st January 2023. It was stated that the recommendation would be to retain the pupils of Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett– Primaire, Foxrock Avenue, Foxrock, Dublin 18 on the register. The final decision regarding registration will be made by the Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service Tusla, Child and Family Agency.

Section 11 Outcome

Outcome of Tusla Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service Panel Regarding Requirements for Section 14 Registration of Children Attending the School

Following the Assessment, the Registration Panel decided that children attending Lycée Français International Samuel Beckett - Primaire will be registered and retained on the register of children receiving an education in a place other than a recognised school as required by Section 14 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.

Registration is subject to a periodic review by the Child and Family Agency