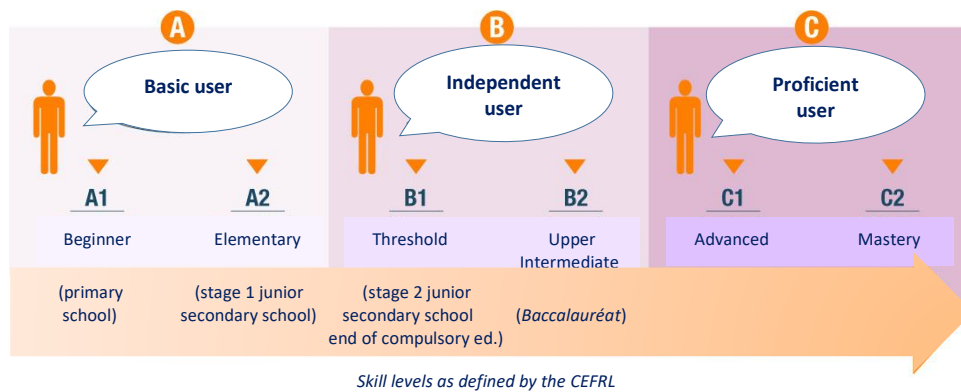


The language courses offered in the French schools abroad observe both the curricula in force in France and the language policy the AEFÉ (Agency for French Education Abroad) set up in its circular 2177 of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The latter encourages a multilingual and multicultural approach, early learning, sitting for language certificates, opening to the language of the host country and teaching some subjects in foreign languages.

## THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

Language teaching curricula in the French and European school systems lean against the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Skills are thus assessed on a scale made of 6 levels, from A1 (beginners) to C2 (proficient users).

Students must reach level A2 between the 4<sup>ème</sup> and 3<sup>ème</sup> classes, said level being validated during the *Diplôme National du Brevet (DNB)* -an exam at the end of junior secondary school- as part of the Shared Foundation. In Terminale, students are expected to have reached level B2 (even C1 for the literature-oriented stream).



As the context in the French schools abroad differs, said levels are often reached at younger ages. However, this scale does take into account the intellectual maturity and academic skills necessary to develop a qualified, long and complex speech. For instance, even a particularly brilliant 6<sup>ème</sup> student cannot yet reach the C2 level, even in their mother tongue. The C1 and C2 levels correspond, rather, to a degree of maturity one acquires when in senior secondary school.

<b>A1</b>	Familiar words Simple sentences	<b>A2</b>	Frequent words Short speech
<b>B1</b>	Common language Simple speech	<b>B2</b>	Standard language Detailed speech
<b>C1</b>	Qualified language Long speech	<b>C2</b>	Qualified language All sorts of speech

## ENGLISH GROUPS AT LFKL

Currently, the LFKL students are divided into groups falling under two distinct approaches: **ESL** (English as a Second Language) and **ELA** (English Language Arts).

Students who have reached or exceeded the target level set for their cycle, i.e. A2 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle (6<sup>ème</sup>) and B1 for the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle (3<sup>ème</sup>) in all of the linguistic activities (listening, reading, speaking and writing) will then work on the language and culture following an approach closer to that of the French class. Students who have not yet reached the target level in each linguistic component shall continue with their modern language class as befitting their needs and the French curricula.

In 2<sup>nd</sup>e, students remain divided into groups according to their needs, i.e. towards B1, B2 strengthening or C1 extensive.

When in the final cycle, all students regardless of their life and school journeys will have benefitted from at least 5 years of language learning. Though the exams (IELTS in 1<sup>ère</sup> and *Baccalauréat* in Terminale) have the same format for all, the students are divided into heterogeneous groups to facilitate mutual help and emulation.

### English language certificates

Exams allowing for the students' levels to be officially certified are taken in 5<sup>ème</sup>, 3<sup>ème</sup> then 1<sup>ère</sup> classes.

CEFR	General English	Academic
Mastery C2		<b>CPE</b> Certificate of Proficiency in English
Effective Operational Proficiency C1		<b>CAE</b> Certificate in Advanced English
Vantage B2		<b>FCE</b> First Certificate in English
Threshold B1		<b>PET</b> Preliminary English Test
Waystage A2	<b>YLE</b> <i> Flyers</i>	<b>KET</b> Key English Test

In junior secondary school, the Cambridge ESOL certificates are specific to each level and assess all of the linguistic activities (listening, reading, speaking and writing). If a candidate scores under 75% in total, they only validate the previous level. If they score over 90%, they can validate the next level. The results of the Cambridge certificates are valid for an unlimited period of time.

In senior secondary school, we have chosen the IELTS certificate as it is recognised in universities worldwide. Future university students can thus use the results they obtained at this exam to their advantage in Terminale, when applying for higher studies whether in France or abroad. The test is the

same for everyone, only the score varies and can serve as proof of the level reached. The results are valid for two years and can thus be put forward to get into an English-speaking university if necessary.

These certificates thus validate the students' general skills rather than a specific curriculum. However, since they are a full part of their course the students prepare for them in class, more or less extensively depending on the class and the students' needs.

Classes / Groups	ESL	ELA
5 <sup>ème</sup>	KET (A2)	PET (B1)
3 <sup>ème</sup>	PET (B1)	FCE (B2)
1 <sup>ère</sup>	IELTS (B1 to C2)	

On-off adjustments may be considered depending on the students' needs and knowledge.

## THE ADVANCED CLASSES

### Fine Arts NLS

In junior secondary school, fine arts are taught in English. Introducing this Non-Linguistic Subject taught in a foreign language (NLS) is in keeping with the CLIL subjects taught in primary school. This subject particularly fits this approach as it enables one to match gestures and words and manipulate a concrete and technical language while developing one's ability to express personal feelings and one's appreciation for artistic works.

### Intercultural studies course and European class

These elective courses also rely on an extensive practice of the language and a deeper knowledge of the subjects and culture. They also feature the teaching of an NLS from 2<sup>nde</sup> and end with the words "European class" mentioned on the *Baccalauréat* diploma.

#### 1) Intercultural studies course

This course offers students who are **keen** on the English language the following:

- **advanced** English classes, 2 hours per week in 4<sup>ème</sup> and 3<sup>ème</sup>
- extensive knowledge of English-speaking countries through a mostly culture-based class
- a class opening them to the world and the culture of the host country

#### **Examples of projects carried out:**

- participating in MYMUN, a simulation of a United Nations conference organised every year by Mont Kiara International School: participating in debates, drafting of solutions and speeches, etc.
- participating in a competition of poetry slam facing other local and international schools
- working on the host country as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Franco-Malaysian relationships

Through working with project-based methods, the students will come to develop their **autonomy**, whether in terms of communication or their ability to look for useful information themselves -while

taking into account how diverse information sources and media can be, and doing a required task by themselves.

This approach falls under the recommendations of the **new shared foundation** stating that “to assess the students’ spirit of initiative, it is fit to bring forward their actual motivation for school work and tangible involvement in the activities [...]: research and production activities, subject and cross-disciplinary projects”.

## **2) European class**

### ***What is taught in it?***

European classes offer the following:

- one subject taught in a foreign language in senior secondary school (history and geography, 1h/week). Said subject is thus qualified as a non-linguistic subject (NLS)
- extensive language learning (1h/week)
- extensive knowledge of English-speaking countries through a mostly culture-based class

### ***Mention on the diploma***

Being part of the European class enables the students who comply with the necessary requirements (obtaining at least a grade of 10/20 at the NLS speaking exam and a grade of 12/20 at the language exam) to have the words « European class » followed by the language mentioned on their *Baccalauréat* diploma.

## **3) Conditions**

Admission to these course and class depend on the student’s:

1. overall results in English
2. results to the Cambridge certificates taken at the end of the 5<sup>ème</sup> and 3<sup>ème</sup> classes
3. overall level as well as their ability to take on extra work
4. motivation assessed during an interview conducted in English

What we expect from the students:

- hard work both in class and at home
- positive attitude in class
- assured motivation and participation in class
- commitment to take said course or class during all junior or senior secondary school years.

These course and class are not included in the school fees. From the beginning of the 2017 school year onwards, they shall be charged RM1,100 per year in junior secondary and RM1,500 per year in senior secondary.