

FAQ – French Courses for Kids and Teens

My child has no French. What class should I enrol him/her in?

He / She is 3-6yo you should enrol him/her in any **Les Petits A1** class.

He / She is 7-11yo you should enrol him/her in any **Les Grands Beg1** class.

He / She is 12-17yo you should enrol him/her in any **Les Ados Beg1** class.

My child speaks some/very good French. What class should I enrol him/her in?

The best way to place your child in the right class in terms of level, needs and expectations is to contact the course coordinator (claire@afbrisbane.com) or to call us on 3844 4460. Teens can also take the online placement test. Claire will either assess your child over the phone or alternatively arrange an appointment for your child to be assessed at Alliance Française.

We can occasionally fit in French-speaking students in our classes but generally organise Private tuitions to cater for their specific needs.

I read on the Alliance's website that you offer different type of courses such as: regular classes, regular workshops and holiday workshops. What is the difference between them?

→ **Regular classes** run for one full term. They cover the A1 level for Les Petits, A1- A2 for Les Grands and A1 - A2 - B1 levels for Les Ados (please refer to the [CEFRL](#) for a definition the levels). The emphasis is essentially on speaking and listening during class time for Les Petits while reading and writing are approached in Les Grands and Les Ados classes.

→ **Regular Workshops** run for one full term. Children will do while learning French. This year we offer Choir for 4 to 10 years old and Theatre for 12 to 17 years old.

→ **Holiday Workshops** run in-between terms and are short courses over 1 or 2 days. They give the opportunity for children to approach cultural themes (French cooking, Paris, Easter in France, Christmas, Comics, French Art..) and have fun in French. Teens can develop specific skills such as pronunciation, grammar, conversation, and overcome their difficulties in small groups.

How many children are there in a class?

Les Petits (3-6yo) gather up to 10 children

Les Grands (7-11yo) gather up to 12 children

Les Ados (12-17yo) gather up to 14 children

On average there are 7 children per class which ensures children can take turns to play, speak or be corrected.

Can my child try one class?

Yes. You as a parent are more than welcome to join in for that trial class too. You will pay for that class if you decide to enrol your child.

Can we bring a friend?

YES, provided that there are seats in the class. Please advise reception a few days before the class.

Will I need to purchase books for my child's course?

It depends on the type of course you enrol in.

→ **All regular courses require books:**

- ⤴ Two story books are included in Les Petits course.
- ⤴ A language set (textbook, exercise book, CD) is required for Les Grands and Les Ados courses. It is automatically added to your shopping cart. The sets cost between \$60 and \$64. If you already have the books, you can remove them from your cart. In doubt, please check the level progression page to find out which set is required for your child's course.

Please be aware we are currently in the process of changing our textbook for Les Grands course. In 2015 some course will require Alex et Zoé, our older textbook, until it is finished. Others will start with Les Loustics, level 1, 2 or 3. Les Grands progression will be updated in the second half of the year.

Do I need to purchase a membership of the Alliance for my child to join a course?

We strongly recommend that you join the Association but this is not necessary. If you intend to study more than one term, then you should definitely purchase the membership as it will save you money! Please check our membership page for prices, discounts, advantages and exclusive offers for members.

What should I bring to class?

We ask Les Petits (3-6yo) to bring in a scrapbook where handouts can be glued. Pencils, felt pens, scissors or glue are available in our kids' classrooms. Les Grands (7-11yo) and Les Ados (12-17yo) will bring a notepad and a pen.

You can purchase the Miss Alliance Notebook online with your child's course or at reception. Some students bring their tablets, some even like to record part of the course on a mobile device.

Are the teachers blue card holders?

Yes. All our teachers teaching kids are blue-card holders. They are trained or have experience teaching with children. The coordinator visits their classes to make sure their teaching is excellent.

Is the whole class taught in French?

What is best than immersion to learn a language? Our teachers speak as much French as possible in the classroom. They will use English to make sure children understand instructions, to explain grammar points for older ones, to make sure children do not feel lost or left behind.

Can I stay in the class with my child?

Parents are always welcome to try a class with their child so as to get to know the teacher, his/her teaching style, or make sure their child is confident in that environment. Nevertheless we ask the parents to leave the classroom after one or two lessons. Let the magic of language learning in immersion happen: the children will learn to speak differently but also learn to be different; it will help them grow and become more independent.

What do the children learn?

Conversation and practical French is the focus. Les Petits classes comprise of a wide range of activities such as singing, dancing, playing games, looking at short movies, doing craft...We want to make sure the children have fun while learning and absorb French in action through all their senses. Les Grands and Les Ados follow a set progression as defined by the book they are using in the class. Please refer to our online progression for a clear view of the objectives for each level. If you have any specific questions, you can contact the teacher via email.

What if my child misses a class?

Your child can come to another class of the same level on a different day, provided that there are seats available. Please note that there are not as many classes for Les Grands and Les Ados age groups. Bear in mind that commitment is a key to success and missing classes slows the learning process.

What if my child encounters difficulties?

Alliance Française organises free tutorials for students experiencing difficulties. In that case, the teacher will first talk to you and then book one session for your child.

Will my child get a certificate at the end of my course?

We issue certificates of level completion when your child (aged 7+) reaches a new broad level such as from A1 to A2, A2 to B1 or B1 to B2. At that stage only teens must complete the A1, A2, B1 or B2 French Language Review at the end of a term or course. Nevertheless, if you need a certificate of attendance for your child before he /she completed a level, please contact us and we

will organise one for you.

Is there any type of official certification?

Alliance française de Brisbane is the only accredited centre in Queensland to organise DELF examinations for your children. This is an internationally recognised diploma of French. From 8yo children with 50 hours French or more can sit for the exam. DELF Prim is the version for 8-12yo and DELF Junior for 13-17yo. For more info, please check that page.

I want my child to become fluent in French. How long will this take?

It generally takes at least 400 hours of learning to become “fluent” or an independent user. This is a long process, that can be accelerated by increased exposure through games, movies, magazines, audio CDs...Anything French will help on that long journey.

Why sitting for the DELF examinations?

This will help your child know where he/she stands, what progress has been made and what difficulties to work on. This also gives her/him a goal and will develop his/her motivation to get to a higher level.

Is my child automatically re-enrolled from one term to the next?

No. You will have to reenrol your child, and possibly make him a member for you to benefit by generous discounts. Do not miss out on our Early birds special discounts.

My teen needs to improve his/her speaking skills, what can he/she do?

Any class will assist your child to achieve this but refer to our holiday workshops and regular workshops program as we offer classes that focus on specific skills such as speaking, pronunciation, acting...

Should I buy resources from your bookshop?

It is always a good idea to purchase more resources that are as many tools to ground and expand your child's knowledge of French, but it is not required and this all depends on your budget. Please do not hesitate to ask for advice, we always can assist you. We offer fun books for younger children such as picture dictionary colouring or sticker books, Cds...Teens might be more interested in looking at our books that help them getting reading for our French certifications.

How can I support my child's learning

→ ***Make sure he/she comes well equipped to the class.***

→ ***Repetition is an essential part of learning.*** Make sure they look at their pad and do their homework before the next lesson. Set up a daily 5-10 minute **French routine** : they can count on the way to school, name as many things as they can when they go shopping, sing in the bath, talk to their pet...It is more efficient to break study time into smaller chunks than study infrequently for extended periods of time.

→ ***Please remind your pre-teens/teens that taking risks and making mistakes are positive steps towards improvement.*** Young children are less likely to lose face when making mistakes.

→ ***Please remind them of the benefits to learn French:*** making new friends, travel to new countries, improve their competencies in English, maths, develop their creativity, be part of a worldwide network, join the vast majority of people on the planet which speaks 2 languages or more, get better job opportunities, learn differences and open their minds.

→ ***Set realistic expectations.*** It takes time and effort to become proficient in French and expect periods when your child do not seem to be making much progress. This is a normal part of the learning process and happens when your child is actually on the verge of stepping to a higher level. So this is only good news!

→ ***Let them be pro-active and extend their exposure to French.*** They can watch videos online, try to spot French stuff in their environment, borrow magazines, books or DVDs from our library, subscribe to a magazine, download French Apps, participate into our cultural/social activities (story time, movies for Kids at the French Film Festival, French poetry competitions, choir, holiday workshops...), buy products from our [bookshop](#)...