



FRENCH

AT COOLA PPS



Bonjour! Coola PPS has a rich tradition of teaching and learning the beautiful language that is French. Our French Department teachers, including a native speaker, strive to instil a love of the language and culture in our students.

Political and business experts agree that students who learn a foreign language enjoy better career opportunities, the

chance to make new friends and fantastic life experiences.

At Coola, our students become skilled at reading, listening, speaking and writing in French from Junior through to Senior Cycle.

In Junior Cycle our students:

⇒ Actively engage in French writing and speaking through interactive and engaging tasks and activities

- ⇒ Communicate in French through various media (songs/video)
- ⇒ Enjoy a language-learning experience that will encourage them to continue learning languages in the future



A Coola PPS school tour to Paris. Photo by Mika Baumeister on Unsplash.

Assessment

Classroom-based

Junior Cycle French (Common Level) involves two classroom-based assessments (CBAs), an Assessment Task (AT) based on CBA2 (which accounts for 10% of the mark in French) and a final written exam.



The Junior Cycle learning journey

A dual approach to assessment, involving classroom-based assessment across the three years and a final externally-assessed, state-certified examination enables the appropriate balance between preparing students for examinations and also facilitating creative thinking, engaged learning and better outcomes for students

Oral Communication CBA 1

Year 2
Final Term

School based
assessment, followed
by SLAR. Reported in
JCPA using
Descriptors

Student Language Portfolio CBA 2

Year 3
End of Term 1

School based
assessment, followed
by SLAR. Reported in
JCPA using
Descriptors

Assessment Task

Year 3
End of Term 1

Based on the
Learning Outcomes of
CBA2. Set by
NCCA & marked by
SEC. Accounts for
10% of Final
Examination

Final Examination

End of Year 3

Based on a sample of
the Learning
Outcomes.
Set and marked by the
SEC.

Breakdown of final
mark awarded by SEC:
10% Assessment Task
90% Final Examination
(35% of which is
allocated to an aural
component)

Transitioning to Senior Cycle French....the TY experience

In TY, French is taught as part of the Modern Foreign Language (MFL) subject which aims to extend our students' awareness of and respect for the diversity of MFL. Students are offered the opportunity to further their European language skills, to explore a range of cultural topics, which will deepen their learning about the countries in question.

On completion of this subject, Coola students can:

- respect and appreciate a diversity of cultures
- express and communicate confidently on a range of European cultural topics
- research information on multimedia/digital sources



SENIOR CYCLE

Leaving Cert French



Leaving Certificate French allows our students to develop their communicative skills in French, effective language learning strategies and raises their awareness of cultural, social and political diversity. Assessment is by means of a written examination, and an aural and oral examination at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level.



Course Content

French for Leaving Certificate builds on the knowledge gained at Junior Cycle. The aim is to improve students' skills in reading comprehension, aural comprehension, written and oral work. There is a greater emphasis on oral work, as one of the components of the Leaving Certificate is an oral test accounting for 25% of the total marks. Course content for Higher and Ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are of particular importance at Higher level.

Coola 5th Yr French poster project

[Career Prospects]

French is hugely beneficial to careers in teaching, media, sales and marketing, translation and interpreting. French speaking I.T graduates in Europe and Canada are particularly sought after. Graduates with a European language gain a competitive edge in the jobs market, especially in the post-Brexit era.

FUN LEARNING EXPERIENCES

School Trip to Paris

We organise regular trips to Paris for our senior cycle students which is a fantastic opportunity for them to experience French as a living language. We visit the Louvre, the picturesque hills of Montmartre and Disneyland Paris is always a firm favourite. The trip is the perfect way to prepare for the oral aspect (25%) of the LC French exam. Students are encouraged to keep photos, tickets, postcards and brochures from their trip to later talk about during their oral exam.

La semaine française - French week

We organise a French week every year with multiple fun activities held to develop students' understanding and appreciation of French culture.