

## ***The British Section in context***

The British Section operates within a network of French state schools, centred on the Lycée International in St Germain-en-Laye. The resulting partnerships offer a challenging educational opportunity for pupils, from age 3 -18, to become not only bilingual but also bicultural, in an international environment.

The British Section is the largest of 12 national teaching sections that provide access to this specific educational system. All national sections and all age groups are present at the main Lycée International site; some national sections also operate in the network's partner schools at *maternelle* (nursery), *primaire* (primary) and *college* (age 11-15) levels.

British Section staff teach in five different French schools in the vicinity of St Germain en Laye\*.

At primary level only, some pupils who are enrolled in other local French schools are authorised to attend national section classes at the Lycee International for two half-days a week.

All pupils who continue through to the *lycée* level (age 16-18), attend the main Lycée International site.

The British Section generally receives more applications than it has places available. Selective entry tests at all age levels determine whether each pupil has the qualities and aptitudes to meet the challenge of an integrated academic curriculum, applying national standards in two languages.

The curriculum leads towards the International version of the French Baccalaureate (OIB), a recognised and respected qualification for university entrance in the UK, France and elsewhere.

Each national section is responsible for teaching the language, literature and history of its country through its own language and educational philosophy, accounting for about a quarter of school time. To this end, all British Section teaching staff are British, with relevant UK university degrees and UK teaching qualifications.

However, the defining feature of students in each national section is not nationality, but rather linguistic standard – English, in the case of the British Section, which includes many French students and where more than twenty nationalities are represented.

One year language induction programmes are offered at certain levels, for students who need to reach a working standard in either English or French in order to follow the curriculum.

When not in their national section classes, students are integrated into French classes in the host school, where French teachers teach them the French standard curriculum.

The British Section is governed by the British Section Parents Association (BSPA) whose main role is to recruit and remunerate staff. The British Section is fee-paying, unlike some national sections where teachers are seconded from the education authorities of their home countries.

*\* St Germain en Laye : Lycée International, Collège des Hauts Grillets*

*Le Pecq :Ecole Maternelle Jehan Alain, Ecole Primaire Felix Eboué, Collège Pierre et Marie Curie*