



FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1. At what age can I enroll my child in CIFS?

Kindergarten: From two and a half years on condition of cleanliness (no diapers) during the daytime.

Primary school (from 6 years old) :

Responding classes/connections between French and Bosnian education/school systems

Age of enrollment	FRENCH SYSTEM	BOSNIAN SYSTEM
2 and 3 years	Maternelle - Petite section (PS)	Kindergarten - Petite section (PS)
4 years	Maternelle - Moyenne section (MS)	Kindergarten - Moyenne section (MS)
5 years	Maternelle - Grande section (GS)	Kindergarten - Grande section (GS)
6 years	Cours préparatoire (CP)	1
7 years	Cours élémentaire 1 ^e année (CE1)	2
8 years	Cours élémentaire 2 ^e année (CE2)	3
9 years	Cours moyen 1 ^e année (CM1)	4
10 years	Cours moyen 2 ^e année (CM2)	5
11 years	6 ^e	6
12 years	5 ^e	7
13 years	4 ^e	8
14 years	3 ^e	9
15 years	2 ^e	1
16 years	1 ^e	2
17 years	Terminale	3
18 years	-	4

Legend:

« Ecole maternelle » KINDERGATEN
« Ecole élémentaire » ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
« Collège » VI to IX grade Lycée HIGH SCHOOL
Osnovna škola
Gimnazija

Note: Primary school in the French system includes Kindergarten and the first five grades of elementary school



2. What are the hours of courses in CIFS?

Kindergarten and elementary school

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Classes begin	8h30	8h30	8h30	8h30	8h30
Classes finish	16h00	16h00	12h30	16h00	12h30

* Lunch break for kindergarten : 11h30-13h

* Lunch break for elementary school : 12h00 - 13h30 | 12h30 - 14h00

* Daycare is open daily from 7h30 to 8h30 and from 16h to 17h30.

Collège (VI-IX grade)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Classes begin	8h30	8h30	8h30	8h30	8h30
Classes finish	16h/17h	16h/17h	16h/17h	16h/17h	12h30

* Lunch break for collège (VI to IX grade): 13h00-14h

3. What differentiates the French kindergarten (preschool) from the Bosnian preschool?

Weekly hours of schooling:

The children attend school 26 hours per week, long lasting linguistic experience and an enriched social life.

The objectives of the kindergarten enrollment and schooling

- **Socialization:**

- learn community life from a young age
- develop socio-emotional capacities
- become aware of the importance of respecting diversity
- support the development of self-confidence and independence

- **Learning**

- at any time, playing, watching, reading stories, learning songs, learning the different forms of art, using computer tools at their earliest young age
- ensure quality educational activities integrating care, learning and play.
- develop speaking and communication skills
- encourage creativity and artistic expression

- **Develop psychomotor skills and adopt healthy lifestyle habits:**

- ensure optimal conditions for appropriate physical growth and development and adopt adequate health and hygiene habits
- develop the cognitive capacities necessary to understand nature and the world around us



Teachers :

- Kindergarten is a school, not a daycare. Teachers have clear and specific objectives that guide the implementation of various activities throughout the day.
- At the end of kindergarten children must have attained all pre-reading, counting, classifying, sorting, fine motor skills ... which will allow them to enter elementary school with all opportunity to succeed.

4. I do not speak French. Is this a problem?

Knowledge of French by parents is not necessary. Children learn most of the lessons in school. Homework help is offered three times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) after school for children of CP (first grade) and CE1 (second grade) (learning to read) and for new pupils whose parents do not speak French.

My child does not speak French. Is this a problem?

- **At kindergarten**, your child will benefit from support by teachers and assistants who speak French, BCS and / or English. Children never feel isolated and can still speak and be heard. The environment of kindergarten will help your child to quickly acquire the foundations of the French language. "Language" workshops are organized daily according to children's skills level, enabling targeted learning and progression.
- **In elementary school**, hours of tutoring are introduced in order to upgrade the children with difficulties in language. 'Language' workshops are targeted (in small groups) and they are introduced as needed.
- **In college (VI to IX grade)**, a minimum level of knowledge of French is required to be registered: level A2 of the Common European Framework for languages. This is the second level on a scale of 6, which corresponds to a volume of about 150 hours of learning. Tests are given before enrollment. If successful, the student follows a year of French as a foreign language at school, every day, while being part of a group class for other subjects.

5. What degree can my child get along with his schooling in CIFS?

The French International College Sarajevo "CIFS" is registered with the Ministry of Education of the Canton of Sarajevo as an institution following the programs of another state (France).

CIFS is an institution also recorded in the register of the Ministry of Education as a French school abroad (under the control of the Ministry of Education). The latter is responsible for the election of the Director Principal, who is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of curricula issued by the Ministry in question.

The « **Brevet des collèges** » is the diploma that assesses the knowledge and skills acquired at the end of the college (VI to IX grade).

The « **Baccalauréat** » French Baccalaureate Diploma which is the matriculation issued at the end of high school by the French Ministry of Education and gives access to universities in the European Union in particular.



6. After a few years in CIFS, can my child be reintegrated in the Bosnian school system?

At all levels of schooling, your child may return to the Bosnian education system because students receive more than just French lessons, they have 2, 3 or 4 hours of instructions and lessons in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, following ages. These are taught by Bosnian teachers from a local Bosnian school. The teachers attest the individual level of the students in their native language twice a year.

7. Are all teachers in CIFS French?

The vast majority of teachers are French. Others have lived and been educated in France.

8. How many nationalities do CIFS students represent?

Our school currently has about twenty-nine nationalities and a dozen native languages.

9. Besides French, what other languages are taught in CIFS?

Language classes are run mostly by qualified teachers, whose is the mother tongue or "native speaker".

BCS (bosnian/croatian/serbian) :

Kindergarten: strengthening of the mother tongue (skill groups)

Elementary school: systematic study of language in accordance with the program required by the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Sarajevo Canton

For foreigners, BCS as a Foreign Language is taught.

English language :

Kindergarten: funny introduction

Elementary school: systematic teaching of 1h30 per week

Middle school (Collège) : systematic instruction of 3 or 4 hours per week depending on age.

Latin, Spanish and German :

These languages are taught in middle school and high school in the traditional syllabus.

10. Are religion courses taught in CIFS?

No. The CIFS is a secular school who takes special care to respect the values of freedom of belief of each and equality for all.

11. Are there additional costs not included in the tuition fees?

For newly enrolled students, there are the costs of the first entry in the amount of 600 KM (which are paid when enrolling a child in CIFS).

The canteen : per meal or 1 KM if the student brings his lunch from home (paid monthly).

The school bus: (defined at the beginning of school year) when using the school bus (paid monthly).

At the beginning of the school year, a fixed rate payment is requested for supplies: 100 KM for kindergarten equipment, 180 KM in primary and elementary / Collège and High school for books, rent for books and files.

12. How the daycare works? What are the working hours for daycare?

In the morning, the school offers a childcare from 7.30am until the start of classes (8h20 students go to their classes): service free of charge.

A daycare is held daily until 5.30pm.

