



Belleville Wix Academy

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Headteacher:

Séana Henry

26th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At BWA, our priority is always to the children and families that we serve, and we are writing to provide you with reassurance and clarity about the future of Belleville Wix Academy's bilingual stream. From September 2026, a fully state-funded, strong, bilingual education will continue, delivered directly by Belleville Wix Academy.

We want to be very clear that our preference has always been to work with and evolve our current partnership with the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle. This partnership has been in place for the last 20 years and has produced excellent results and high standards in line with both UK and French government expectations. The quality of our provision was recognised by Ofsted in their inspection in February last year.

Following the meeting where it was announced, with no advance notice, that the Lycée were withdrawing from shared bilingual provision, we have been in contact with the French Embassy. We were told that we would have the opportunity to work together to understand the challenges within the partnership and to find solutions. We entered those dialogues in good faith with the aim of preserving and improving our existing partnership and provision. We have requested meetings with the Lycée and French Embassy to discuss the situation.

The letter sent by the Lycée on Monday 19th January was issued without our prior knowledge. The explanations and justification for the termination of the partnership are erroneous and misleading. It has become very clear that the Lycée do not intend to continue with the current arrangements for the bilingual stream in partnership with Belleville Wix Academy from September 2026. However, this is not due to failings in the shared arrangements, but rather to a change of law in France regarding the accreditation of overseas schools.

When you chose Belleville Wix Academy for your child, we made a commitment to you to provide your child with a primary education from Reception to Year 6. We will fulfil our commitment to you, ensuring that all our pupils have the opportunity to continue their state-funded bilingual education solely at Belleville Wix Academy, as the French issues now appear irresolvable.

As a Trust, we are confident in our ability to provide a true bilingual provision which is academically and culturally rich and results in strong outcomes. An education that ensures your children are well prepared to transition to the next stage of their education, whether that be in the British or French education systems.

We can also confirm that, where possible, we would like to extend places to children currently educated through the Lycée, should families wish to join our school. Please be assured that we will do everything we reasonably can to accommodate this.

I encourage you to continue to share with us those thoughts and concerns that you think we should be aware of. We do kindly ask for your understanding as we are not always able to respond to all queries individually at this time. I am always available to speak with parents at the start and end of day as well. We will be arranging further meetings for parents this term, where we will provide you with more detailed information



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about the new provision and give you the opportunity to ask any additional questions that you may have.

I understand that this situation has caused great uncertainty and concern to you and your children. I am so sorry. We do wish to reassure you that there is a plan in place to ensure the continuity and stability of your children's education at BWA.

Finally, I wish to thank you for the many messages of support which have meant a great deal to me and our staff team. Thank you very much for your ongoing understanding, patience and support.

Yours faithfully,

Séana Henry

Headteacher

Belleville Wix Academy