



At the Mansfield Steiner School, we are now using the AIM method of teaching French. We are using it because it really works! It gets students speaking French in full sentences more quickly than other methods. And it's fun. AIM was developed in Quebec, Canada, and is widely used in Australian schools.

What is AIM?

AIM is a unique, multi-faceted program in that it uses gestures; a specifically researched 'pared down' language; with stories and music to rapidly develop students' fluency.

AIM is:

- A verb-based rather than noun-based approach allowing teachers and students to be able to function solely in the target language from the outset of the program.
- An inductive approach, providing students with the vocabulary and grammatical structures they require on an "on needs' basis.
- A multi-sensory approach and considers all the multiple intelligences in its use of visual, musical, math's/logic, kinesthetic etc. making the language accessible for all types of learners.

*(from the AIM website: [www.aimanz.com](http://www.aimanz.com))*

In a short space of time, the Accelerative Integrated Methodology (AIM) enables students to develop a working proficiency in French. AIM brings transformation to the experience of teaching and learning a second language by using these key strategies:

1. Gestures are used to introduce and reinforce vocabulary and ensure a French-only environment. These visual and kinaesthetic props allow new words and associated grammar to pass directly to meaning, so there is no need to translate back into English.
2. Useful, key words are taught first. The highest-frequency words are carefully selected, giving students the tools they need to communicate from the very first class.
3. Content-based instruction is designed to create an immersion-like experience where students focus on task-based activities relating to dramatic arts and literacy.
4. An inductive, contextualised approach to grammar ensures abstract grammar concepts are taught in a meaningful way. Patterns are used repetitively and in a fun way.
5. Cooperative learning activities get students working with each other, speaking and writing creatively in French. The highly participatory and active learning environment in an AIM classroom supports students of all learning styles.

If you are interested in finding out more about AIM, have a look at the website: [aimanz.com](http://aimanz.com) or come and have a chat to me and I can tell you more about our current stories and songs. There are also some great AIM French videos on YouTube.

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