

LE CLIMAT DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE

A Welcoming Space for Exploration

The school library supports the intercultural competency by providing a welcoming physical and emotional environment that invites the safe exploration of ideas and resources. The library provides materials in both English and French, resources about different cultures, and authentic documents on a variety of topics. Students are encouraged to try out new and unfamiliar resources.

Physical Environment

The library supports the climate of the FLS classroom of trust (confiance), empathy (empathie) and mediation (médiation), by its physical environment designed to encourage exploration and openness to new ideas, including other cultures. School libraries strive to make their physical space one that welcomes students and staff to enter and explore the resources.

The physical layout of the library can include comfortable and welcoming seating, friendly signs instead of rule-based ones, inviting decor that invites students to stay and to browse the materials. Students should feel comfortable entering the library, exploring its resources and lingering in the library. The library is for them and is their space. The physical displays of materials encourage students to discover and try out new library resources.

Social-Emotional Environment

The safe and friendly atmosphere of the library means that students can browse resources on their own time and without judgement. Libraries encourage students to try out new things, but also to help them find materials on a variety of subjects. Library personnel are trained to assist students without judgement or censure.

Library personnel see the students over the students' entire school career and can take advantage of this relationship to develop trust with students that allows for dialogue, mutual respect and the free exchange of ideas. The library staff themselves, are one of the library's most important resources. The library strives to create an atmosphere where students are not afraid to ask for help when looking for materials for class or for personal reading and research. This foundation of libraries works well with the intercultural competency, but the library personnel need to have an awareness of this need: it must be a conscious decision.