



WA/La Réunion Student Exchange (inc)



The *WA/La Réunion Student Exchange (inc)*, established in the early 1980s, is an annual **reciprocal** hosting programme for students of French in Western Australian schools and students of English in La Réunion. It involves a **four-week** stay in Australia, in late December/January, for La Réunion students. Australian students spend an equivalent amount of time in La Réunion in June/July. In both cases, students are billeted with a family.

The exchange programme is organised by a voluntary committee of teachers of French from government and non-government schools. They select and match students with an appropriate French applicant, provide support to the host families during the stay here and deal with organisational matters relating to the exchange. The committee also selects the Western Australian students who go on exchange to La Réunion and four committee members accompany about 60 students to La Réunion each year.

Students participating in the exchange will have the opportunity to:

- gain first-hand experience in the customs, ideas and lifestyle of the areas visited;
- become more fluent in the language of the host country;
- gain a better understanding of the host society;
- gain a wider perspective of their own beliefs, traditions and history;
- gain an understanding of the differences and similarities between the two countries;
- where possible, gain an understanding of the school system of the host country;
- gain a deeper understanding of oneself and others;
- experience and accept another family and their way of life;
- share the richness of their family and cultural background with the host family; and
- create avenues for forming friendships.

For more information about participating in the *WA/La Réunion Exchange Programme (inc)* contact:

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Student and parent comments:

"An incredible experience, everything is new and different, it gives you confidence" - Rachel Hemming

"Accompanying teachers really cared for our wellbeing, merci!" - Mimi Helm

"i have to make sure my friends regret giving up French." - Chris Pearce

"it is one of a kind experience and you have the chance to make life-long friends" - Erin Horrigan

"i loved experiencing the mix of cultures" - Sarah Biddle

"it's great to be away from home and in a completely different world to your own - you learn to value things in your life that you take for granted" - Louise Abbott

"Réunion is the most beautiful place in the world to learn" - Matilda Cornes

"we got on like peas and carrots" - Poppy Damon

"i started dreaming in French" - Graham Rogers

"Thank you so much for organising this trip. Not only has it boosted my confidence and my French, but i have made friends that will last forever" - Rachel Hemming

"The match between Lucy and Sarah (the La Réunion student) worked well and they are firm friends. i expect that there will be further exchanges between our families in future. i believe that the exchange programme offers benefits to the whole family." - Mrs Cowcher