



English as an Additional Language (EAL) Senior School Policy

DEFINITION:

English as an Additional Language is taught to pupils who do not have English as their first language.

STATEMENT:

This policy applies to the inclusion of pupils across the senior school from, Year 7 to the Sixth Form.

The School is committed to making appropriate provision for the teaching of pupils for whom English is an additional language, including individual access to learning resources. The EAL department will identify an individual pupil's needs at the earliest opportunity, recognise each individual's skills which they bring to the School and strive to ensure equality of access to the academic curriculum and co-curricular programme.

Whilst the EAL and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) departments are distinctly separate, the School recognises that pupils with EAL have individual needs. Some pupils with EAL may have special educational needs. Some function above expected levels in a particular area. Accordingly, the EAL Policy does need to be read in conjunction with the SEND Policy and High Achievers Policy.

The aim of the EAL Department is to teach English to pupils with EAL and help them reach a level with which they can:

- successfully follow their courses in other subjects
- integrate fully into the life of the school, using English confidently and competently
- prepare for GCSE, A level and BTEC assessments and EAL examinations.

SENIOR SCHOOL

New pupils are assessed by the School Admissions Department before they join the school, during the normal process of recruitment. They are then re-assessed by the Head of EAL as soon as they arrive, using a multiple-choice placement test and a writing task.

EAL pupils subsequently follow the school curriculum pertinent to their year group. Should their level of comprehension and communication in English be deemed good enough by the EAL department they will not receive formal EAL lessons and may choose to study a Modern Foreign language (MFL) or alternative option subject. Those pupils who do require timetabled EAL lessons will do so instead of studying a MFL. EAL pupils may receive further EAL timetabled lessons as one of their option choices in Year 10 and 11 (from an option block, alongside Modern Foreign Languages). It remains possible for such pupils still to choose a Modern Foreign Language as a further GCSE/ IGCSE option. EAL pupils in Year 12 and 13 may receive EAL timetabled lessons as one of their option choices.

In Year 10, incorporating those EAL pupils who arrive to start their career at the school at this point in time as well as those who are already at the school, a decision is made as to whether an EAL pupil should follow the standard Year 10 and Year 11 English Language and Literature courses.

These are currently the Edexcel IGCSE awards for both subjects. Alternatively, they may study English Language only. This latter group is a small class, usually comprising between 10-14 pupils, who are taught within the English Department by an EAL qualified teacher.

Pupils taking EAL lessons will generally sit the Pearson Edexcel iGCSE English as a Second Language qualification at the end of Year 11, in addition to the above qualifications. For those pupils deemed to have sufficient levels of English to access English Literature and English Language (First language) they are offered the opportunity to also take IGCSE English as a Second Language.

Pupils in Year 12 also undertake a multiple-choice placement test and a writing task on arrival at the school. In addition to this, EAL pupils who have selected to study A-Level Maths sit a rigorous Maths test. All this information is fed back to the Senior Leadership Team, House Teams and Heads of Department (HoDs) as soon as possible at the beginning of September. A-Level choices are then determined, in discussion with each individual EAL pupil, on the basis of the results of these tests.

All pupils receiving EAL tuition study the grammatical and lexical systems of English and practise the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. The EAL department aims to teach the pupils to speak and write accurately, clearly and confidently in an appropriate style for a given context.

Support is also given with specific areas of vocabulary for subjects such as Business Studies and Science, but not limited to these. The EAL department liaises closely with the other departments in order to provide this support. The EAL teachers are always ready to help with other subjects whenever necessary and the EAL schemes of work are flexible in this respect.

In Year 12, pupils requiring an English qualification to enter a British university take the British Council IELTS Academic Module. In Year 13, pupils are given the option to continue their IELTS studies or to take the Pearson Edexcel iGCSE English as a Second Language qualification in November and June, depending on their university requirements.

All EAL timetabled classes are taught in small groups. Individual and group tuition also occurs outside timetabled lessons.

Pupils will continue to receive EAL tuition for as long as their EAL teacher, academic tutor and subject teachers deem it necessary. There is no additional cost for EAL tuition, but parents may be advised to seek additional support outside school at a known provider in order to raise the level of English to the required standard. This will incur a cost.

All timetabled EAL pupils have ILPs (Individual Learning Plans) made available to teaching and pastoral staff. (These plans are created throughout the Autumn Term each year and are reviewed regularly). The plans are written by the department and give details of the pupil's individual educational need(s) as well as offer guidance and strategies to help in the teaching of the pupil. These plans are then shared with all teaching staff in the Autumn term.

Created and reviewed regularly since		Summer 2015
Reviewed and approved	EWC	May 2020
Reviewed and approved	Board	June 2020
Reviewed and approved	EWC	February 2022
Reviewed and approved by	EWC	February 2023
Reviewed and approved by	EWC	February 2024
Reviewed and approved by	EWC	January 2025
Reviewed	CT/JS	January 2026
Reviewed and approved by	EWC	February 2026
Next review		January 2027