



Ashford School

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Policy statement

This policy applies to all members of our school community, including boarders and EYFS. Ashford School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this EAL policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010); further details are available in the School's Equal Opportunities policy. Ashford School seeks to implement this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document. In line with our Provision of Information policy, this document is available to interested parties via our website (www.ashfordschool.co.uk), and on request from the main School Office, and should be read in conjunction with the Ashford School Admissions Policy. The document is reviewed annually by the Head of the EAL Department.

Introduction

Pupils with English as a second language are fully integrated into both the curriculum and the wider life of the school and are encouraged to speak in English to their peers in a range of situations to enable their language skills to develop through immersion. There is a variety of co-curricular opportunities for pupils to develop their communication skills through activities such as sports, music and drama. Teaching staff are expected to ensure that all pupils are able to access the learning opportunities in their lessons and thus help pupils to develop proficiency in English. Regular liaison between the EAL department and individual subject staff helps to facilitate pupil progress in different situations.

Once a pupil has been offered a place at the School, any pupil who does not have English as his/her first language is assessed in their first week of joining. The English as an Additional Language Department advises exactly how much English support is necessary for a pupil to access the curriculum. Each individual's level of proficiency in English and their age will determine the level of support they will receive from the EAL department. Ashford School charges a set fee for EAL support.

EYFS and Prep School

When pupils for whom English is not their first language join the school in the early years or in the prep school, the EAL department will assess their level of proficiency in English and make a recommendation. The younger the pupil is, the less likely it is that they will need language support to cope with the normal school day. However, if it is deemed necessary, the EAL department will provide support in the form of:

- EAL lessons
- In-class support
- Support for the pupil's teacher or form tutor in how to facilitate integration and progress in language

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9

EAL lessons with one MFL (no mainstream English lessons)

These lessons, happening instead of one MFL and of mainstream English are suitable for international students who have a greater need to improve their English language skills than to study two European foreign languages (MFL). These lessons are designed to help students refine their general and



academic English, as well as give students language support to help them succeed in their other subjects.

EAL lessons with one MFL and mainstream English lessons

These lessons are suitable for international students who need to improve their English language skills rather than study two European foreign languages (MFL), but who can take part in the mainstream English lessons with the rest of their year group. These lessons are designed to help students refine their general and academic English, as well as give students language support to help them succeed in their other subjects.

Year 10 and Year 11

EAL support lessons and mainstream English lessons

These lessons are suitable for international students who need to improve their English language skills, but who can take part in the mainstream English lessons with the rest of their year group. These lessons are designed to help students refine their general and academic English, as well as give students language support to help them succeed in their other subjects. In most cases, EAL support is given instead of a modern foreign language (MFL), but not always. This depends on the student's GCSE choices and the availability of the timetable. Students fitting this description aim to come out of Year 11 with a GCSE English First Language qualification.

IGCSE English as a Second Language + EAL

These lessons take the place of mainstream English lessons and often also of an MFL or other GCSE option course. They are suitable for international students who have a greater need to improve their English language skills. These lessons are designed to help students refine their general and academic English, as well as give students language support to help them succeed in their other subjects. Students in this path will aim to obtain an IGCSE English as a Second Language qualification.

IGCSE English as a Second Language + IELTS

Due to the nature of language learning, some of these students will progress more rapidly than others. When pupils start Year 11, if we deem it in their best interest, we may start their preparation for IELTS, which they would then sit early in Year 12.

Year 12 and Year 13

The English as an Additional Language Department decides exactly how much English support is necessary for a pupil to access the curriculum and advises EAL students which English language qualification would be the most suitable for entrance to higher education in the UK and overseas.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Course

The IELTS course is suitable for international students who wish to study at an English-speaking university and who do not already have an English language qualification acceptable for British or American universities. It is also suitable for international students who have already gained an English language qualification but wish to improve their English language skills. The registration for IELTS tests is not included in the EAL fee.

Additional options

In-class EAL Support



Some EAL students need very targeted, subject-specific support in order to succeed in all their subjects. To this end, the EAL department employs two Teaching Assistants whose primary responsibility is going into lessons with pupils who are weak in English or who need some one-to-one support in specific subjects. The deployment of the TAs is based on level of need, prioritising health and safety, exam classes, and level of need.

Tutorials

Occasionally, students need help understanding feedback or changing the way of working in their subjects. When this happens, they can be assigned an EAL teacher as tutor to help them improve in the different areas where they need to.

After-School EAL Support

Some EAL students have very specific language needs. An EAL teacher is usually available after school to help with specific problems and give support.

EAL Pupils with Additional Educational Needs

Some EAL students have very specific language needs. EAL pupils who need targeted speech or spelling support can receive help from an EAL teacher. EAL pupils with very specific difficulties may need to see a specialist for assessment purposes or for support at an extra cost if this cannot be done in school.

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