

English as an Additional Language Policy

Policy Title: English as an Additional Language Policy	Effective Date:	January 2022
Staff Member Responsible: Head of EAL	Review Date:	In line with regulatory requirements

This policy addresses ISI Regulatory Requirements Part 1, Para 2 and Part 6, Para 32

Policy Statement

Language plays an important part in supporting Westonbirt School's mission statement. Within the School's boarding community many languages exist side by side and pupils are encouraged to compare languages and the cultures that are associated with them, our annual International Day is one example where we highlight the many cultures present at the school and come together to learn from one another and celebrate.

Westonbirt School is committed to providing a quality education in English for pupils from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and to providing support for pupils who are working in English as their second language. The school recognises the important role that teachers play in developing language acquisition and also acknowledges the assistance our international students need to thrive and perform to their best.

The EAL department aims to stimulate, challenge and support all pupils, and to deliver a curriculum which is inclusive, and focuses on the development of the key skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. As the school welcomes international pupils in all academic years, this variety of linguistic backgrounds, proficiency and age and stage of students is vitally important to consider and hence our English as an Additional Language (EAL) policy is flexible, thereby allowing the school to incorporate the needs of different pupils and their learning styles, while at the same time allowing them to benefit from the full range of the Cambridge English language training curriculum or IELTS training along with a sensitive approach and support to a full integration in the life of the school.

This full wrap around language exposure and inclusion offers the individual not only the opportunity to acquire understanding and fluency in the English language, but is also in keeping with the school's promotion of multicultural awareness, and its recognition and encouragement of the respect of our global community.

Delivery of EAL

Westonbirt School seeks to promote a whole school policy approach through which all members of staff are aware and informed of the needs of all pupils with English as an Additional Language. Our practices are designed to enable EAL pupils to access the curriculum and public examinations, and to

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help such pupils improve their academic skills and learning strategies, to take responsibility for their own learning and to understand his/her learning profile. The Head of EAL supports departments and individual teachers on an ongoing basis in understanding the specific needs or backgrounds of EAL pupils and in discussing ideas to develop strategies to support their progress. Responsibility for the delivery of EAL support is given by the Head of EAL working next to the Learning Support Department. The principal aim of EAL support is to give students whose first language is not English the opportunity to study and excel as they prepare effectively for a fitting Cambridge Proficiency exam. This pathway significantly improves their overall proficiency and trains students to be flexible language users and therefore flourish in an academic environment in which to transfer listening and speaking skills, as well as pronunciation, discourse and grammar which underpin what is needed for main school. Additional subject specific EAL supported classes are also given.

The improvement of a student's linguistic ability and confidence once they undertake a training programme of study related to a given Cambridge Proficiency pathway is clear as these skills are in par their academic subjects as well as encouraging effective study skills. The EAL provision aims to support and develop pupils' abilities to communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Within the EAL provision Westonbirt School aims to:

- advise on linguistic level of international pupils applying to the school when asked to do so;
- assess proficiency in English of EAL pupils new to the school and timetable support accordingly;
- provide individual classes with the specific tailored focus of academic English and support for curriculum subjects;
- assist students in gaining a recognised English Language qualification for university entry (IELTS);
- liaise with EAL pupils' academic subject teachers when areas of concern are identified

All incoming EAL pupils of all year groups are offered the potential to propel through the suite of Cambridge Proficiency exams on entry to Westonbirt School

EAL pupils' information is normally obtained by the Admissions Department in advance of a pupil's arrival. Setting is done on the basis of test results and any reports from the pupil's previous school. Additionally, following their arrival at the school, the proficiency level of new EAL pupils is assessed using the Oxford English Language Placement Test. Along with a Speaking test this will inform the Head of EAL which level of Cambridge Proficiency the student would be suitable for. The placement test will also identify those students who may require extra subject specific language provision to support them better in certain subjects that are language heavy and therefore challenging.

In addition, requests for support at any time may be made by a pupil, parents or by a pupil's teacher/tutor/houseparent.

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After accepting an offer of lessons, our EAL pupils attend individual or group English Language lessons in which students focus on honing their English language skills in preparation for the rigorous academic life at Westonbirt School. A standard 70-minute lesson per week is scheduled.

Lessons to prepare students for Cambridge IELTS exam for university entrance are set as a compulsory element of the sixth form academic timetable.

For students who are unable to successfully take GCSE English we offer the IGCSE English as a Second Language preparation course and exam.

EAL provision is very flexible in order to consider the wide range of different educational backgrounds and expectations of our pupils, different levels and abilities and different linguistic needs. We endeavour to ensure that our lessons maintain pace, variety and challenge, encourage active learning and are appropriately differentiated. Most importantly, we aim to provide pupils with both the linguistic competence and academic skills to succeed in their subjects.