

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy



Wycombe Abbey is a high-performing academic environment and pupils require an excellent standard of English upon entry in order to succeed. Most pupils who join the School are from families with English as a first language. However, pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) are welcomed.

The School is committed to making appropriate provision of teaching and pastoral support for pupils for whom English is an additional language.

Aims

The aim is to ensure that all EAL pupils are able to use English competently and confidently in order to access the full curriculum and play a full part in the boarding life of the community.

- To ensure as far as possible that language is not a hindrance to the development of each pupil's potential.
- To offer support, encouragement and recognition at all stages of the language learning process.
- To achieve integration into the boarding community.
- To instil the values of trust, encouragement and mutual respect in creating an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding of cultural differences.

Objectives

To assist pupils to meet the language matriculation requirement for British and other world-renowned English speaking universities.

To assist pupils to access the curriculum providing a sound base in academic subjects.

To ensure that all pupils are able to understand key information and messages around Safeguarding, Wellbeing and all other aspects of the wider life of the School.

To allow pupils to thrive at school, university, in their career and life in general by cultivating key academic qualities and skills such as risk-taking, resourcefulness, determination, reflection, development

Entry Process

The level of a pupil's English is assessed through a variety of methods prior to an offer being made, including aptitude tests, written English test, oral interviews, written examinations in a variety of subjects and reports from the pupils' previous school.

Applications are reviewed by the Head of Learning Enhancement, Deputy Head (Academic), Head of English and Director of Admissions before admission to the School and any potential problems (academic or pastoral) are identified.

Further information on the entry process and scholarships is detailed in our Admissions Policy.

English Curriculum

English is a compulsory subject in UIII to UV (Years 7-11). All pupils sit IGCSE/GCSE English Language and English Literature in UV (Year 11). Pupils who join in the Sixth Form (16+ Entry) from countries where English is not the first language receive guidance on English qualifications required for entry to UK universities and are supported to gain these qualifications (usually IELTS or IGCSE English), via additional lessons either small group or individual with a specialist teacher.

Supporting EAL Pupils

On entry all pupils will be tested for English spelling, English comprehension and potential Dyslexia.

A list of pupils with EAL is maintained and shared with all teaching staff. Pupil progress is monitored and tracked along with all pupils in the School.

The School keeps a Multilingual register, including information about pupils who speak English as an additional language. The register has 4 categories;

1. English First Language - Multilingual
2. Perfect fluency - as good as though it was their only language. They never do not understand.
3. Excellent - very occasional misunderstandings
4. Very Good - Occasional misunderstandings and some unknown items of vocabulary

Teachers provide support for pupils with EAL in the academic lessons, with support from the Learning Enhancement Department.

Housemistresses and Heads of Section will check in with pupils who are categorised as (3) Excellent - very occasional misunderstandings and (4) Very Good - Occasional misunderstandings and some unknown items of vocabulary in order to ensure they have understood any key information and messages around Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Curriculum, and other aspects of the wider School life.

The Head of Learning Enhancement works with Housemistresses and tutors to monitor our EAL pupils' happiness and welfare. The Head of Learning Enhancement works with Heads of Section to monitor pupils' academic progress.

Where it is determined additional support is needed this can be provided in the form of extra one-to-one lessons with a dedicated qualified EAL teacher who supports pupils with lessons that link to academic lessons. A charge for individual tuition in EAL is made. Please refer to the Finance Department for current charge rates.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Pupils will not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

Please refer to our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy for further information on the provision of support for pupils.

Member of staff	Deputy Head (Academic)
Reviewed	August 2024

Version – EAAL/2aai/v10/24

Related Policies

Equal Opportunities for Pupils

Curriculum

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Admissions

Safeguarding and Child Protection