



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) POLICY

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Deputy Head (Academic) Head of Learning Support (Senior School) Head of Supported Learning Needs and Academic Welfare (Prep School)	
Last review by	C Weatherhead R Watson	Review date	September 2023
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Ethos

In our school the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our pupils are important. We encourage all our pupils to achieve the highest possible standards. We do this through taking account of each pupil's life experiences and needs. Some of our pupils have particular teaching and learning requirements, because they speak English as an additional language.

The school operates within a wider policy framework which includes the Equality Act 2010, The Education Act 1996, the Equality Act 2010, the Children and Families Act 2014, SEND Regulations 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015, the GDST Inclusion Policy, the GDST Equal Opportunities (Education) Policy, the GDST Accessibility Strategy, the GDST and Streatham & Clapham High School's Admissions Policies, the GDST Exclusion Policy, Streatham & Clapham High School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Pupils who speak English as an additional language often have skills and knowledge about language at a similar level to monolingual English-speaking pupils. Their ability to participate in the full curriculum may be in advance of their communicative skills in English.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to ensure that pupils, who have all gained admission by selective examination procedures, have equality of access to the curriculum. We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all pupils, through the education that we provide, so that our pupils can realise their full potential academically and socially and to develop as responsible citizens.

The aims of the school are:

- EAL pupils are identified and procedures are followed to ensure their needs are met and they achieve their potential;
- Procedures are in place to ensure teachers and non-teaching staff are aware of such pupils and supported in meeting their needs;
- EAL pupils are integrated as fully as possible into the life of the school and offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, including an appropriate curriculum;
- They are actively encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities;

- The views of the pupil are sought and considered;
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to play a role in EAL pupils' education;
- Appropriate resources are available and are used in the school
- EAL pupils are enabled to achieve their potential both in the classroom and through additional support where appropriate, including the use of appropriate access arrangements for internal and external examinations;
- The school's overall ethos helps pupils feel valued members of the school community, thrive in a culture which may be foreign to them, and appreciate their own cultural uniqueness;
- Bilingualism and multiculturalism are actively supported and celebrated.

Defining EAL

There are many different definitions of EAL. However, this guidance adopts the DfE definition, that is:

'A first language other than English should be recorded where a child was exposed to the language during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community.

If a child was exposed to more than one language (which may include English) during early development the language other than English should be recorded, irrespective of the child's proficiency in English.'

This definition therefore encompasses pupils who are fully bilingual and all those at different stages of learning English. EAL pupils may be:

- Newly arrived from a foreign country and school;
- Newly arrived from a foreign country but an English speaking school;
- Born abroad, but moved to England at some point earlier in their childhood;
- Born in the UK, but in a family where the main language is not English.

'EAL' therefore covers a very broad spectrum of competence, knowledge and prior experience. Accordingly EAL pupils will need varying levels of provision and different types of support.

Teaching and Learning

We act to help pupils for whom English is an additional language by various means:

- As part of the enrolment procedure all families new to the school are asked to complete an EAL questionnaire identifying their family language;
- The list of EAL pupils is regularly updated and distributed to staff;
- Currently all staff have access to a list of EAL pupils stored electronically in shared staff areas;
- The Head of Learning Support who oversees the EAL provision at the senior school and Academic Director liaise with Heads of House and Heads of Department to monitor the progress of EAL pupils in individual subjects to ensure that learning is taking place at an appropriate rate;
- EAL pupils are encouraged to transfer their knowledge, skills and understanding of one language to another building on their experiences of language at home and in the wider community. This enables their developing use of English and other languages to support one another;
- Providing a range of materials, through specific subject teaching and through the School Librarian, to broaden the pupil's experience of the English language ensuring that there are effective opportunities for talking which is used to support writing;
- The Head of Learning Support and Learning Support department at the senior school is involved in the Trust's on-going EAL training.
- Strategies for differentiation;
- Provision of bilingual dictionaries and other resources. (Seniors)
- Provision of peripatetic and Learning Support department EAL support if appropriate;

- External examinations in first language. (Seniors);
- Appropriate access arrangements for examinations;
- Use of pastoral buddy system;
- Encouraging integration in social and academic settings;
- EAL lessons for international pupils studying public examination courses
- External agency arranges extra English sessions on-site to improve international pupils' written and spoken English;
- To promote a positive profile of EAL. This can be achieved by:
 - holding assemblies including European Language and Mother Tongue Day;
 - ensuring EAL has a high profile in school displays;
 - developing appropriate staff resources including suggested teaching methods;
 - staff training;

EAL in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years both celebrates and encourages children to develop fluency in the English language, as well as their home language (if other than English).

We aim to accomplish this by:

- Providing visual stimuli for newly learnt vocabulary words
- Having a visual timetable
- Allowing the children to talk in their home language when playing
- Giving EAL children opportunities to teach words or phrases from their home language to the rest of the class
- Learning songs in other languages
- Giving parents a list of free websites and games, the child can play or listen to in English (and/or their home language)
- Holding Literacy and Numeracy workshops
- Having storybooks available written in Urdu, Chinese, French and other home languages that represent the current pupils
- Encouraging children to bring in home language story books to share with the class

Learning Support

All pupils have passed an entrance test at an appropriate level for their age group. An examination in English forms a significant part of this test so pupils will have demonstrated that they can use English at a level, which will enable them to benefit from the education provided by the school.

Any pupil who is identified as requiring additional support in their use of language will be referred to the Head of Supported Learning Needs (Prep School) for further assessment and will be offered appropriate support, which may require consultation with external agencies. In-house support may include withdrawal lessons in small groups or provision of differentiated material by subject staff. Subject or teaching staff also provide support informally on a one-to one basis.

Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy

The implementation of this policy will be reviewed, monitored and evaluated via:

- the outcomes of school inspection;
- review of public examination results;
- review of internal examination results;
- use of pupil voice and feedback from parents;

- review at Head of year meeting;
- periodic audit in consultation with the Academic Committee.

Complaints about EAL provision

If a parent has a concern about EAL provision, he/she in the first instance should raise the concern with the Coordinator. If a parent wishes to make a complaint, they should refer the School's complaints procedure.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Additional Learning Needs, GDST equal opportunities, anti-bullying, and GDST inclusion policies.