



Senior School Policy

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

| Action | Policy to be reviewed annually | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Committee | Date | Completed |
| Reviewed | Deputy Head (Academic) | 06 June 2023 | ✓ |
| Reported | Education Committee | 06 October 2023 | ✓ |
| Approved | Board of Governors | 11 December 2023 | ✓ |
| Next review | Deputy Head (Academic) | June 2024 | |

EAL refers to pupils for whom English is an additional language

The academic department in the School which teaches English as a second language, such as English B, is referred to as the ESL Department.

Overview

Gresham's prides itself on the diverse backgrounds of pupils who attend the School, and the provision it offers for pupils whose first language is not English.

The School recognises the important role that all teachers play in developing the language acquisition of all pupils, and in particular pupils designated EAL pupils. The Curriculum Policy states that language acquisition remains central to the ethos of Gresham's, and therefore the curriculum is inclusive and fosters developments in speaking, listening and literacy.

The School has pupils with a variety of linguistic backgrounds and recognises that EAL pupils have different needs.

This curriculum provides pupils with the opportunities to acquire the skills and fluency necessary to access the curriculum and thrive in the School environment.

Support of EAL pupils

The School expects all members of staff to be aware and informed of the needs of all EAL pupils.

The principal aim of the support for EAL pupils is to develop their linguistic ability and confidence to deal with their studies, activities, and social interactions at school and beyond, through developing the skills to

- Communicate effectively in speech and writing in a language which is not their first language.
- Develop pupils' appreciation and knowledge of British culture, etiquette and behaviour, while maintaining and respecting the centrality of their own culture(s) and language(s).

The responsibility for the delivery of EAL support rests with the Deputy Head (Academic) through the support offered by the Director of Studies, departments, tutors and the ESL Department and Learning Support Department in particular.

The Head of ESL provides information for all teachers regarding the support of EAL pupils in the classroom.

The Head of ESL, who is also the Overseas Pupils Coordinator, and the ESL department

- Advises on linguistic levels of international pupils applying to the School when necessary. Some pupils also undertake an entry interview. Pupils are/are not allocated additional teaching as a result of this testing and in light of recommendations from previous schools. The Deputy Head Academic and the Director of Studies also interview EAL pupils at the application stage.
- Helps identify EAL pupils who may need academic and pastoral support.
- Meets with the Director of Studies to discuss EAL pupils in light of performance data.
- Offers one-to-one EAL lessons to address specific needs.
- Prepares pupils in Years 9 for the Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) where appropriate.

- Prepares pupils in Year 11 who have ESL lessons for EDEXCEL IGCSE in English as a Second Language examination, in addition to English as a First Language.
- Prepares those pupils who take English B as part of their IB Diploma.
- Prepares ESL classes for the IELTS qualification where it is required.

Additional support and integration of EAL pupils into the whole-school community is achieved through tutoring, the work of HSMs, and the diversity team. The Overseas Pupil Coordinator supports this process through social and academic events, and the Overseas Pupils Forum, which raises the profile of international pupils within the School community.