

Whole School

(Including EYFS)

English as an Additional Language

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1 Policy Statement

At Ewell Castle School we welcome applications from pupils for whom English is not their first language or is not the principle language spoken at home. We welcome the diversity brought to our community from those from different cultures.

We aim to ensure that EAL pupils are able to use English as a means to access the school curriculum, and to achieve a GCSE or iGCSE qualification in English, English as a Second Language or both.

We aim to ensure that the number of English as an Additional Language (EAL) pupils in each year represents an appropriate balance such that the individual and the community achieve maximum benefits, and that provision can remain of a high quality.

2 Entry Criteria

2.1 It is preferable that an applicant has at least one year's experience of studying the curriculum in the English language. However, we accept those who have studied in their native tongue, provided that they have studied the English language previously and that they can demonstrate a satisfactory level of proficiency in our entrance assessment process for each setting. The Year group into which a pupil enters at Ewell Castle School will be determined by factors of age (pupils with English summer birthdays are young for their age group) and language maturity, in addition to proficiency in English.

2.2 Some pupils, whose command of English is not at a suitable level to join Ewell Castle School immediately, will be encouraged to enroll at an English Language School in preparation for joining Ewell Castle School at a later date.

2.3 Pupils who enter our Early Years Provision (Nursery and Reception) with a low level of English will be required to receive additional English Language support, and this will typically be delivered through specialist EAL provision.

3 EAL Entrance Assessments

3.1 In the Preparatory School, pupils will spend time in their prospective Form Group involved in normal school activities. Pupils are assessed using an EAL Assessment Framework that assesses a pupil's Proficiency Level in English as an Additional Language. Pupils are assessed on their social interaction through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills (where appropriate).

3.2 In the Senior School, at the **assessment** stage the following aspects of English are assessed,

- speaking, should they be interviewed;
- listening, should they be interviewed;
- writing and grammar;
- comprehension and standardised reading

In addition, a Mathematics assessment will be undertaken, at the level of Age-Related Expectations.

3.3 For pupils entering the Sixth Form to study A-levels, further subject specific assessment may be appropriate, depending upon GCSE and iGCSE grades achieved and language confidence levels during 6th Form interviews for external candidates.

4 English Language Progression

4.1 Parents and guardians must be aware that the level of English being achieved by an EAL pupil (spoken and written) is constantly under review by our subject teachers, Heads of Department and Heads of English at the Senior School and Preparatory School, respectively, who may liaise with our EAL specialist teachers and/or SENDCOs. Experience tells us that the language spoken at home is a critical factor in the development of learning a new language and, in the Senior School, will have a significant impact upon the ability to progress to GCSE English assessment. There are many examples whereby a pupil's command of the language regresses if there is little/no English spoken at home – particularly during vacation periods. General advice about immersion in English is shared about wider reading, TV and film watching, radio and podcasts as well as current affairs and documentary programmes, including the use of subtitles, where helpful to learning.

4.2 We recognise that many pupils will supplement their English language tuition at Ewell Castle School with tuition at language schools in the evenings, at weekends and during holidays. This practice is encouraged and will have obvious benefits. We also encourage contact between external tutors and our EAL Department.

5 English Language Provision – Prep School

5.1 There will be a small number of EAL pupils who arrive at Ewell Castle School with excellent English, and they are able to fit immediately into an appropriate class at Key Stage 1 (3 to 7 years of age) and Key Stage 2 (7 to 11 years of age). EAL pupils follow the same curriculum as a native English speaker. However, their English language needs may differ.

5.2 There is the opportunity for EAL pupils to be taught extra English in small groups or individually. These lessons will be approximately two hours per week and will be delivered through specialist EAL provision. Pupils may be withdrawn from MFL language lessons for one-to-one or small group sessions for this purpose. There will be no charge for the extra provision unless an additional 1:1 lesson is requested by parents (see section 7 (Fees) below). The school will assess the need for extra English lessons within the first two weeks of the pupil entering the school.

5.3 The provision made works alongside the EAL Assessment Framework and English classroom teaching, supporting EAL pupils in developing the language skills they need to progress to the next level/year/stage of their education.

6 English Language Provision – Senior School

6.1 All pupils studying English as their second or additional language (EAL) will be taught in both mainstream English classes, as well as in small classes with fellow international pupils, taught by a specialist EAL teacher. There will usually be a minimum of two withdrawal support lessons per week,

either one-to-one or in small groups, replacing a language lesson. In some cases, more than two withdrawal support sessions may be needed. There will be a no charge for this specialist unless parents decide to opt for additional 1:1 lesson (see Section 7 Fees)

6.2 There will be a small number of international pupils who arrive at Ewell Castle School with an excellent command of English, and therefore will not need extra EAL support. These pupils will simply join mainstream English classes.

6.3 All pupils, after accepting an offer of a place at Ewell Castle, are required to fill out an admissions pack before they join the school. Included in this pack is a section relating to EAL. Questions are asked to garner a pupil's ability to speak, read and write in English. The answers are logged and used (with entrance examination) to assess curriculum support needed.

Students transitioning from Ewell Castle Prep to Senior School will be assessed internally.

6.4 In Years 7-9, the progress of pupils within their additional EAL lessons is monitored closely by the specialist EAL teacher and class teacher. These year groups follow a course leading to Pearson Edexcel Second Language IGCSE, in addition to being provided support for their mainstream English and other academic curriculums.

6.5 Depending on their progress in Years 10 and 11, pupils may be in a position to sit the mainstream GCSE English 9-1 Language and/or Literature examination, in addition to the iGCSE ESL examination which all EAL pupils who have had additional support will be required to sit. The mainstream English teacher and specialist EAL teacher will liaise during the course as to the suitability of each candidate for external examinations.

6.6 The iGCSE ESL course is administered by Pearson Edexcel and is an accepted qualification by most colleges and universities worldwide. It is designed for international pupils studying in English schools, such as Ewell Castle. There is no literature aspect in this course - more a study of the practical use of English and the development of the four key skill areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

6.7 The course is considered an excellent steppingstone to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) course, which students are required to sit externally in the sixth form years if they wish to study at a British or Commonwealth university. Our specialist EAL teacher offers teaching of the IELTS course to Sixth Form EAL pupils, as well as further advice on course content and the examination as required.

7 Fees

Rates for additional 1:1 EAL lessons are set annually and reflect the nature and amount of specialist tuition required. Lessons are charged to fee invoices termly in arrears. Any enquiries regarding fees for EAL lessons should be referred to Bursar and rates can be found in the annually agreed fees leaflet.

8 Co-ordination

8.1-After entry to the Prep School, the point of contact for the EAL pupils is the *Head of Prep School Learning Support* in addition to the Form Teacher and the *Head of the Preparatory School (3-11)*

8.2 After entry to the Senior School, the EAL specialist teacher collaborates with the *EAL Coordinator, Senior School Deputy Head (Academic)* and Heads of Department as points of contact.

9 Review and Development

9.1 Procedure

This document, together with the effectiveness of its procedures, will be reviewed annually by the Executive Leadership Team and Governing Body and as events or legislation change requires.

Links with other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Admissions Policy
- Conditions of Entry
- Curriculum Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy