



HEADINGTON
SCHOOL · OXFORD

EAL Policy

Senior School

Reviewed by:	Assistant Head Academic,
Date of last Review	October 2023
Next Review Date:	In line with legislative updates

Definition of EAL

'English as an additional language' is defined as applying to all pupils for whom English is not their first language/one of their first languages (if bilingual). The EAL Department Policy is to ensure that language does not become a restrictive factor in a pupil's education at, and integration into, Headington.

Aims of EAL provision at Headington

- To identify who is EAL, and then determine if dedicated EAL teaching support is required, or if academic staff - in their normal teaching provision - can provide all necessary support.
- To use EAL teaching support to bring pupils' comprehension and application of the English language up to a standard which enables them to access the curriculum.
- To support integration into the wider life of the school.
- To ensure all new Sixth Form pupils who do not have (I)GCSE English have the opportunity to obtain the best IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score for university entrance.
- To communicate effectively with all staff to ensure they are aware of all students who have EAL, and those who attend support lessons.
- To advise Admissions where there is any discussion about whether a prospective pupil's level of English would prevent them from accessing the curriculum.
- To provide specialist 1-1 teaching where appropriate.

Identification of EAL students

Students who require EAL support are identified in the school entrance exam with the use of the Oxford Placement Test. They may also be referred by staff who identify the need for support. Follow up testing using the OPT may also take place in the autumn term to determine their level and monitor progress.

Organisation of teaching

The EAL Coordinator reports to the Assistant Head Academic.

The majority of provision is delivered in weekly timetabled lessons to year group EAL cohorts or on a 1-1 class basis, though occasionally lessons need to occur before or after school. Additional help might also be given to EAL students at key times during the year on an ad hoc basis by request of pupils, staff or parents. All these lessons are charged separately.

New EAL students entering the Lower Sixth who do not have (I)GCSE English and wish to apply to UK universities are prepared for the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**.

Integration with the English Department

The EAL Coordinator works closely with the Head of English to ensure the continuing needs of all students are being met. Staff members of the EAL Department also liaise regularly with their pupils' English teachers, enabling them to support the specific needs of these students in relation to the demands of the English Department curriculum.