# EAL (English as an Additional Language) Policy

This policy has been approved by a member of School Committee
and Education & Pastoral Sub-Committee

Ackworth School welcomes students of all nationalities and aims to give both academic and pastoral support to those whose first language is not English. Our vision is to support pupils' development of English language skills across the four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. We aim to do this through internationally accredited courses which use pupils' current proficiency level as a launchpad for progress. We understand proficiency in English to be the key to overall academic success for EAL pupils and are committed to helping them reach their full potential.

## Aims of the department

The EAL department aims to support the development of our EAL learners' English language skills through:

- Post-admission assessment
- Appropriate course allocation, matching students' needs to suitable internationally recognised English language qualifications, including Cambridge IGCSE EAL, Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language, Eduqas GCSE English Language and IELTS UKVI Academic
- Excellent teaching and learning in timetabled EAL lessons
- Tailored support provided in EAL drop-in sessions and extra sessions as and when needed
- Advising other departments on supporting EAL pupils' progress and linguistic development, through the compilation of an up-to-date EAL register, delivery of INSET sessions and newsletters on EAL pedagogy.

## Responsibilities of the Head of EAL

The Head of Department is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the EAL Policy and for striving to achieve its aims.

## Admission, assessment and communication of support needs

The Admissions team assesses multilingual pupils at pre-admission stage using Clarity English's Dynamic Placement Test. The test assesses reading, listening and use of English. Results indicate the pupils' English proficiency level using the Common European Framework (A1-C2).
For a pupil to be able to access the curriculum and cope with school life at Ackworth School, they require the following recommended Common European Framework proficiency levels as a minimum:

Year 7 to 9: CEFR B1
Year 10 and above: CEFR B2
Upon starting lessons, pupils are assessed again within the EAL Department, to ensure accuracy of assessment. Pupil information, proficiency level, suggested language targets and support strategies are communicated with colleagues via the EAL register.

Each Autumn term, the following data is inputted/ updated on iSAMS:

- Pupils' English language proficiency: New to English/ Early acquisition/ Developing competence/ Competent/ Fluent
- Current IELTS level

This helps us track EAL pupil progress across the curriculum.

**EAL Curriculum**
In **Senior School (Years 7 to 11) and Pre-A level**, pupils prepare for one of the following English language exams, depending on their proficiency level:

- Cambridge IGCSE English as an Additional Language
- Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language
- Eduqas GCSE English Language

Both IGCSE exam courses nurture the 4 skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and support the development of fluency and accuracy. Pupils at B2 level who are confident users of the language transfer to mainstream English in Y10 to follow the GCSE English Language and Literature courses, or, in some cases, just the former.

In years 7 to 9, classes are timetabled at the same time as Modern Foreign Languages lessons, 4 times per fortnight. Small groups sizes allow lessons mixed year group lessons where necessary.

In years 10 and 11, EAL classes are timetabled at the same time as mainstream English, 6 times per fortnight.

Pre-A level pupils attend 17 lessons per fortnight of EAL, during which time they prepare for one of the 3 examinations listed above. Library sessions and an introduction to English literature are also part of this course.

In **Lower and Upper Sixth**, international pupils not in possession of a GCSE English Language qualification at grade 4 or above, prepare for IELTS Academic. This course also focuses on the 4 skills and prepares pupils to meet the language requirements for HEIs using English as a medium of instruction. EAL is an integral part of the assessment and reporting calendar alongside other subjects.

**EAL and SEND**
Every Autumn term EAL HoD, SENCo and relevant teachers meet to discuss the intersection of needs of EAL pupils with SEN, and to share best practice. Assessments for exam access arrangements are managed by SEND.

**Supporting EAL pupils across the curriculum**
The EAL register is updated and circulated each term. It contains details of each EAL student's CEFR level, corresponding Bell Foundation level and suggested classroom support strategies (also from the Bell Foundation). The register also contains suggested language targets organised by proficiency level, which teachers can refer to when supporting EAL pupils in their subjects. Staff receive regular advice and updates through an EAL Newsletter. The use of students' first language (L1) is encouraged in situations in which the students will benefit cognitively; advice to teaching staff closely follows up-to-date research into the use of L1 in education.

Teachers liaise with the Head of EAL about how best to support EAL pupils in their lessons. Teachers also send pupils to EAL Drop-in for extra support, on Thursdays after school.

**Pastoral Support**
Ackworth School recognises that students will come from a range of ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The students are supported as they adapt to British culture and boarding life while developing their level of English. Each student will be supported by a tutor who will monitor their academic progress and take care of their welfare needs. The tutor will work closely with the Head of EAL, Head of Boarding (in the case of boarders) and year group Pastoral and Academic Lead. In addition, the EAL department has an open-door policy for students to be able to bring any pastoral issues to our attention.

**Multilingualism as an asset**
At Ackworth School, we see multilingualism as an asset and would like to promote an interest in languages across the school. As part of the Languages faculty, the EAL department contributes to this in the following ways:

- Linguistics club and language competitions: the GCHQ National Language Competition in the Autumn term and the UK Linguistics Olympiad in the Spring term.
- Celebrating the languages of our student body during Celebration Day at the end of the Summer term.