

EAL Policy

At Ballard School we welcome pupils who do not have mother-tongue English and also those who have spent periods of time in a non-Anglophone education system. These pupils require targeted support if they are to show their knowledge through the medium of English.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons cater for pupils who need support in the mainstream classes and EAL intensive lessons. These lessons are spent in our well-resourced Department of Enhanced Learning (DEL) with a specialist EAL teacher.

KS1, KS2 and KS3 pupils may receive between 2 - 5 hours of EAL lessons per week, depending on their level of English.

KS3 and 4 pupils have the opportunity of taking the Cambridge English: B2 First for Schools examination which encourages them to communicate effectively, express their opinions and write clear, detailed English.

KS4 pupils study for 2-3 hours per week. They may take the Cambridge International Examination IGCSE in English as a Second Language (ESL) - this forms the basis for further, in-depth language study and a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use. It is the stepping stone to assist the pupil to achieve the level required to be entered for the IGCSE in English as a First Language.

Also, in addition to the IGCSE in ESL, pupils may take further studies to prepare for the Cambridge English: C1 Advanced examination, if they wish to enter Colleges and Universities with this advanced qualification.

All of these qualifications are recognised worldwide.

1. Aims and objectives

Aims

We aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education and enable EAL pupils to achieve their best in fulfilling their potential. The main aim is to develop reading, writing, listening and communicating skills to access the curriculum in mainstream classes.

Objectives

- For each EAL pupil to achieve a level of proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking English that is required to access their mainstream classes successfully.
- For each pupil to gain confidence in speaking English.

To achieve the objectives, pupils are offered EAL classes with a specialised EAL teacher on a 1-1 basis or in small groups to build communicating skills and confidence giving the pupils an opportunity to be linguistically adventurous.

2. Assessment

English testing is carried out at Ballard School using an age-appropriate assessment including written and spoken English. The information is used to establish whether EAL provision is necessary, the amount of language support required and the pupil's level of functional English, according to their individual needs. Progress is assessed at the end of each term.

The provision is based on a plan/do/review programme and so is closely monitored by the specialist EAL teachers. We are committed to whole school inclusion and make appropriate provision to remove any barriers to learning and ensure that all EAL pupils have access to the National Curriculum.

All teachers are informed of the levels of English of the EAL pupils.

3. Admissions

The confirmation of admission to the school may be dependent on agreement to take EAL lessons if, on the assessment by the school, it is felt the pupil could not access the curriculum and be a part of school life without the EAL lessons.

4. Advice and strategies

For the support of EAL pupils Ballard School will:

- Ensure the EAL pupil understands the teachers
- Encourage EAL pupils to ask questions
- Ensure the EAL pupil understands the questions
- Explain key words and write them on the board
- Provide specialist vocabulary books
- Identify new words in advance
- Write homework tasks on the board
- Be aware of the difficulty of humour (can feel isolated) and cultural differences
- Pair the EAL pupil with a good, clear native English speaker
- Adapt and differentiate work and homework to suit EAL pupils
- Encourage use of bilingual dictionaries
- Use pictures and images where appropriate

Non-native speakers are encouraged to use bilingual dictionaries during lessons and when completing homework. Such a dictionary may be provided as an exam access arrangement for those who fulfil the application criteria.

5. Cost

There is a supplemental charge relating to the EAL lessons, (as per the Schedule of Fees) and also for entry into the examinations if requested.

Deborah Goodwin, EAL specialist, May 2016

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