

English as an Additional Language Policy

St Edmund's School is an independent, co-educational boarding and day school. The aim of the School is to enable boys and girls to develop their love of learning, academic potential and individual talents in a caring community which fosters sensitivity, confidence, a sense of service and enthusiasm for life. It is an academically selective school.

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of the School, pupils must be fluent English speakers. We may recommend that some children, whose first language at home is not English, receive tuition in English as an Additional Language. Children for whom English is not their first language will be assessed on arrival and appropriate help is given if needed. A peripatetic EAL teacher may be commissioned by the school to provide extra lessons if required, and the cost of this will be charged to parents.

Policy Objective

To set out the rationale and methodology for EAL support at St Edmund's School

Policy Aims

1. To identify those pupils who have EAL requirements;
2. To ensure appropriate support is provided for those students who have EAL requirements enabling access to a broad and balanced education in which he/she can participate fully with peers.
3. To promote the individual's self-esteem in order to promote academic potential and independent learning.
4. To acknowledge fully the importance of the parents' role in supporting their children's education.
5. To monitor those students who have EAL requirements through careful target setting and evaluation;
6. To ensure that less favourable treatment does not occur and that the School offers equality of opportunity for all of its applicants and pupils.

Admissions and EAL

St Edmund's School welcomes all children who can make the most of the opportunities that are offered and can flourish in the caring environment of the school. Treating every child as an individual is important to us, and we welcome pupils who have EAL requirements, provided that they can access our broad and balanced curriculum with limited support and that the AS Department can provide them with the further specialist teaching that they require. We do not, however, have the facilities to offer highly specialised and intensive tuition.

We advise parents of children who have EAL requirements to discuss their child's needs with the school before he or she sits our entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of appropriate documentation from their prior school(s) to support any request for extra time and / or use of a dictionary. We will discuss thoroughly with parents the adjustments to the curriculum that can reasonably be made for their child once they have accepted the offer of a place and before he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

On Entry

Each pupil who has English as an Additional Language will be assessed to determine the level of support required. If appropriate, adjustments will be made to the pupil's curriculum, including group AS lessons.

In the Preparatory School

- Up to the end of Year 6 these lessons will focus on enabling access to the full curriculum;
- In year 7 and 8, lessons will focus on preparation for Common Entrance.

In the Senior School

Up to Form 11, lessons will focus on enabling access to the IGCSE syllabus. See Exams Policy for additional access arrangement information.

Monitoring and Review

1. St Edmund's School has established a professionally staffed Academic Support Department. Its aim, throughout the whole school, is to support those students who have any specific or additional learning needs, working in consultation with parents or guardians, tutors and teachers. It offers specialist small group lessons and help with study skills. It is also responsible for determining and organising appropriate access arrangements for both internal and external examinations, such as extra time and / or the use of a dictionary.
2. All teachers are expected to support the learning of EAL students in their own subject areas. After reasonable adjustments have been considered, the School reserves the right not to admit pupils whose needs it cannot meet. The Headmaster's decision will be final in all cases.
3. The Department believes that close liaison between pupil, parents or guardians, pastoral and teaching staff is essential.

Reviewed: February 2017
Next Review: January 2018