

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

At Beechwood Sacred Heart School, we have a number of pupils from overseas for whom English is not their first language. We are committed to ensuring that these pupils are given all the support they need to access the School curriculum successfully and hence obtain the best possible qualifications.

All pupils seeking to enter the School from abroad are sent a test to assess their standard of English, which is considered before a place at the School is offered. Pupils are then re-assessed on entry. For those applying for a Tier 4 General Student visa, the government requirement is that all pupils must attain CEFR Level B1, taken at an approved centre. This is not necessary for a Tier 4 Child visa.

Pupils entering the School in Year 9 or below are normally expected to take part in mainstream English lessons. Some may choose to take EAL classes in addition to mainstream English if they do not wish to study an additional language, such as French, German or Spanish. All new Year 10s will take English GCSE plus EAL lessons if needed. In addition to any required subject support, Sixth Form pupils can receive timetabled specialist language tuition leading to the IELTS qualification which is an entrance requirement for overseas pupils wishing to enter UK universities.

If deemed necessary the School will provide three EAL lessons per week and there is no extra charge for this. Any additional EAL support is always available for any pupil who may need it, at an additional cost.

Some pupils come to the School for short periods of one year or less, with the primary intention of improving their standard of English. These pupils usually take part in the normal school curriculum, including timetabled EAL lessons, but they are sometimes given a specially designed package of lessons and activities to enhance their absorption of the English language and culture.

EAL lessons are taught by trained specialists. An integrated approach encourages the development of English in the four major skills of listening and understanding; speaking; reading and writing.

All teaching staff liaise with EAL teachers when extra subject support is needed and are given written reports outlining EAL pupils' abilities and guidance on integrating EAL pupils into their lessons.

Reviewed by DHM: September 2019
Date of next review: September 2020