



PLYMOUTH COLLEGE

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

Including Early Years Foundation Stage

Last reviewed:	September 2025
Next review date:	August 2026
Responsibility:	Deputy Head (Academic)

PREP SCHOOL

Introduction

In recognition of internationalism and to ensure equality of access across the curriculum, Plymouth College is committed to providing a quality education in English for all EAL pupils. EAL children are defined as those who have a first / home language other than English and who are in the process of learning and using English as an additional language.

We aim to ensure that all EAL students:

- feel they are in a safe, welcoming, nurturing environment where they are accepted, valued and encouraged to participate in the life of the School
- use English confidently and competently in a range of contexts
- use English as a means of learning across the curriculum.

Objectives

To ensure that all our EAL pupils can fully participate in the academic and social life of the School and gain access to appropriately planned and prepared curricular provision, including **enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening**.

To ensure that our EAL pupils attain curriculum levels and assessment grades appropriate to their abilities.

To monitor the progress of our EAL pupils' acquisition of English, their general achievement and their attainment in examinations, ensuring that they also have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language.

To recognise the role played by the first or home language in the development of English. e.g. Arabic writing is read from right to left.

To develop opportunities for pupils to share some of their culture, identity and language with other children.

Key principles for Additional Language Acquisition in our school

EAL pupils:

- have access to the whole curriculum, including the EYFS framework
- have some EAL lessons each week if appropriate - either specialist EAL English lessons, ielts lessons or individual or small group support sessions.
- are taught with their peers
- are placed in groups with fluent English speakers who will provide them with good language models
- are placed in the appropriate set i.e. with their intellectual/academic equals

SENIOR SCHOOL

Departmental Vision

The EAL Department teaches English to overseas pupils whose first language is other than English. We believe that pupils are entitled to achieve their full potential. In order to succeed at School and to participate actively in school life, EAL pupils must be able to use and communicate in English at a level appropriate for their course of study. Overseas pupils at Plymouth College bring a range of experiences to the School: literacy in first language, previous educational experience, links with other pupils from the same community and a wealth of cultural references. As well as providing pupils with language skills, we also prepare them for university through our English as a Second Language GCSE (or General IELTS) and IELTSs. The main goal of EAL is to help pupils reach a level of English proficiency where they can successfully access their mainstream studies alongside their English peers.

The Role of the EAL Department

- Plymouth College Senior School has an EAL coordinator who is responsible for leading the day-to-day provision for pupils with English as an Additional Language at both the Senior and Prep School. Although there is a collective responsibility held by all staff to identify and remove barriers to EAL pupils' learning and success, pupils will have access to specialist EAL tuition and continued support from the EAL Department through their time at Plymouth College where appropriate.
- The department plays a part in welcoming new overseas pupils and helping to coordinate the induction process. The EAL coordinator will have assessed the initial English level and possibly spoken with the pupil prior to them arriving at the School.
- If deemed appropriate, EAL pupils in Year 10 and 11 will study for the EAL or ESL IGCSE (or General IELTS) and Sixth Form pupils study towards their IELTS examination and entrance to university. Appropriate targets are set within these lessons and reviewed regularly. These are available to staff on the staff intranet.
- Support for EAL pupils is coordinated by HoDs, HoYs and Deputy Heads at the Senior School and Heads of Subject at the Prep School.
- EAL pupils take an Entrance Exam in English prior to admission and areas for development are identified as well as guidance being provided when choosing optional subjects.

- Teachers are made aware of any particular challenges for EAL pupils. The department provides guidance, training and support for mainstream teachers.
- At the Prep School, teaching assistants may provide some support for EAL students in the classroom where necessary. The EAL department also guides or provides additional support if necessary both within the classroom and in the form of subsidised lessons.

Teaching and Learning

- In the Prep School, regularly reviewed targets are set by the teacher.
- In the Senior School, pupils are closely monitored by subject teachers, HoY, boarding and EAL coordinator. Where pupils are taught EAL as a discrete subject on timetable, regular reports and attainment grades are completed and sent home to parents or guardians in line with the School's reporting policy. Concerns are communicated to parents or guardians.

Teaching Strategies to support EAL pupils

- Develop a consistent approach to language and literacy and to use speaking and listening strategies to develop subject learning.
- Enable pupils to draw on their existing knowledge of other language/s.
- Allow pupils, if necessary, to use translated materials or bilingual dictionaries.
- Give pupils time to practise new language.
- Ensure pupils are clear about the purpose and audience for their writing – try to provide model texts or a planning framework/connectives to link ideas.
- Use visual support of all kinds (diagrams, maps, charts, pictures, realia).
- Model writing for key text types within their subject and provide exemplar answers.
- Develop reading strategies to increase pupils' ability to read for a purpose and engage with a variety of texts.
- Develop card sorting, sequencing and matching activities.

Early Years Curriculum

The EAL coordinator collaborates with the class teacher to support and monitor EAL pupils.

Plymouth College Preparatory School adheres to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, DfE March 2017 and notably paragraph 1.7:

For children whose home language is not English, providers must take reasonable steps to provide opportunities for the children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, supporting their language development at home. Providers must also ensure that children have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language during the EYFS ensuring children are ready to benefit from the opportunities available to them when they begin Year 1. When assessing communication, language and literacy skills, practitioners must assess children's skills in English. If a child does not have a strong grasp of English language, practitioners must explore the child's skills in the home language with parents and/or carers, to establish whether there is cause for concern about language delay.

Senior School Curriculum

In Years 10 and 11, we are flexible with the programme and base this on need when planning for the next year. EAL is taught on timetable as a discrete subject within the English timetable block, and pupils currently follow the CIE IGCSE English as an Additional Language Course or the Edexcel IGCSE English as a Second Language, or where this discrete teaching is not necessary, pupils study supported by the EAL department for Junior or General IELTS (where appropriate). Pupils develop and consolidate their English through listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar-based activities on a wide range

of topics to include Leisure, Holidays, Education and Society. Through the course, there are many opportunities to embed British culture and traditions into their learning so they gain a real insight into the British way of life while still celebrating their own culture and background. Pupils take exams in Listening, Reading and Writing combined and Speaking.

In Sixth Form, pupils who need it for university will study for the Academic IELTS exam. There are exams in listening, reading, speaking and writing and pupils will be assessed using a 9-band points score. The writing, in particular, focuses on an explanation or analysis of a graph, table or diagram.

Pupils also have an opportunity to take exams in their First Language. These are studied independently alongside their other subjects.