



# City of London School English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

## 1. Introduction, and Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 English as and Additional Language (EAL) support may be available to pupils whose first language is not English. In practice, many EAL pupils at the School will neither need nor want language support, but for those that need support, individual and / or group lessons will be offered. The primary aim of such support is to improve the pupil's range and accuracy in English.
- 1.2 EAL support was initially perceived as a growing need in 2008. As a result, a member of staff supported to achieve the necessary EAL support qualification (CELTA).

## 2. English acquisition

- 2.1 In many schools, a simple 5-stage model of English acquisition is used to describe a pupil's capability in English. This is a 'best-fit model' and though it is not detailed enough to be effectively used for target-setting or formative assessment it does provide a simple and consistent model for use to make a general assessment.

All pupils at the School have passed entrance exams taken in English<sup>1</sup>. Pupils at the School are almost inevitably at stage C, D or E (see below). However, a pupil may still require support to achieve his full potential.

### 2.2 *The 5-stage model*

#### A. ***New to English***

The pupil:

- May use his first language for learning and other purposes.
- May remain silent in the classroom.
- May copy / repeat some words and phrases.
- May understand some everyday English expressions but have minimal or no English literacy.
- Needs considerable support.

#### B. ***Early Acquisition***

The pupil:

- May follow day-to-day social communication in English.
- May be beginning to use spoken English for social purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> The School follows JCQ guidelines on the setting of these exams.

- May understand simple instructions and be able to follow narrative / accounts with visual support.
- May have developed some skills in reading and writing.
- May have become familiar with some subject-specific vocabulary.
- Still needs significant support.

C. ***Developing Competence***

The pupil:

- May participate in learning activities with increasing independence.
- May be able to express himself orally in English but structural inaccuracies are still apparent.
- May be able to follow abstract concepts and more complex written English.
- Requires ongoing support with Literacy, particularly for understanding text and writing.
- Requires support to access the curriculum fully.

D. ***Competent***

The pupil:

- Has Oral English that is developing well, allowing successful engagement in activities across the curriculum.
- Is able to read and understand a wide variety of text.
- Has Written English that may lack complexity and contain occasional evidence of errors in structure.
- Needs support to access subtle nuances of meaning, to refine English usage, and to develop abstract vocabulary.

E. **Fluent**

The pupil:

- Can operate across the curriculum to a level of competence equivalent to that of a pupil who uses English as his first language.

### **3. EAL assessment**

3.1 A referral for EAL support can take any one of three routes:

1. Pupils arrive at the School with a known EAL need and having received support at their previous school.
2. The Learning Support screening picks up a potential language support need (see below).
3. Parents, pupils, Form Tutors or subject teachers might refer a student to the EAL co-ordinator.

3.2 Information about EAL is gathered during the Learning Support screening that takes place in the First and Third Forms. This data is screened by the Learning Support department. Where the Learning Support teacher perceives that a pupil's results might have been affected by language problems, rather than learning support problems, these scripts are passed to the EAL co-ordinator.

3.3 Once a pupil has been referred for EAL support, examples of the pupil's work are sought from his subject teacher in English and / or his exercise books for a range of subjects are examined. This is checked and further tests are carried out. The School uses the Oxford Placement Test.

Since 2014, adaptive testing has been used which gives even more accurate data about the Pupil's need.

- 3.4 **145<sup>2</sup> pupils** at the School reported speaking another language at home, either in addition to English, or in preference to English. Many of these students would classify themselves as bilingual. **16<sup>3</sup> pupils** at the School are currently receiving EAL support.
- 3.5 The support offered is often directed by the subject teacher in English, e.g. the teacher might report a problem with the correct use of adjectives / adverbs and this will be a topic for study in the EAL support lesson. From the Fourth Form upwards, lessons are individual and focused on preparation for iGCSE English Language and Literature.
- 3.6 Further guidance for subject teachers may be found in Appendix 1.

## **4. Information sharing**

- 4.1 Information about EAL pupils is available in iSAMS.

## **5. Resources**

- 5.1 The resource bank for EAL support continues to be developed based on the specific needs of individual pupils.

## **6. Review of Policy**

<b>Policy last reviewed by:</b>	Susy Ralph (EAL Co-ordinator) & Noeleen Murphy (Assistant Head (Academic))
<b>Date last reviewed:</b>	June 2018
<b>Policy approved for Governors by:</b>	
<b>Date last reviewed:</b>	

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<sup>2</sup> When last surveyed in 2017.

<sup>3</sup> In 2017-18, last updated August 2018.

## Appendix 1: EAL guidance for subject teachers

*Written by Susy Ralph (EAL Coordinator)*

This guidance is general, by nature, and I realise that not all of it will be relevant for subject-specific teaching.

### Background to EAL at CLS

EAL support (off-timetable lessons rather than in-lesson support) may be available to pupils whose first language is not English. In practice, many EAL pupils at CLS will neither need nor want language support, but for those who need support individual and / or group lessons can be arranged.

Lower school pupils are taught in groups; Fifth and Sixth Form pupils individually where possible.

***The primary aim of such support is to improve the pupil's range and accuracy in English.***

### EAL Referral

Referral for EAL support can take any one of three routes:

1. Pupils arrive at the School with a known EAL need and having received support at their previous school.
2. The Learning Support screening picks up a potential language support need (see below).
3. Parents, pupils, Form Tutors or subject teachers might refer a student to the EAL co-ordinator.

### Cultural Issues

In addition to language problems, there may be cultural issues which staff need to be aware of when supporting pupils who speak a different mother tongue, issues that could hinder learning and which arise out of cultural rather than linguistic differences.

For example, it is generally accepted that pupils who have started their education in the Far East may have a strong dislike of making mistakes, especially orally. They will either think very carefully before saying anything or simply not speak in case they get it wrong. This can usually be overcome with patience, coaxing, praise for effort and sensitive handling of mistakes but it will take time.

Another cultural factor (not limited to Far Eastern cultures) can be an unwillingness to question a teacher as it is a mark of disrespect. This means that they will misunderstand but not ask for clarification, and in answer to "do you understand?" reply "yes" even when they don't, as that seems to be the desired answer. Once again, these pupils need to be reassured that the School's normal way of teaching is a two-way process and that discussion / asking questions is encouraged. It may also be difficult for parents – who may themselves not speak English fluently – to raise language problems with the School and they may not wish to 'flag' their sons as struggling.

### Tips for helping pupils with English in mainstream classes

I include below all the tips I was given at the schools I visited during my sabbatical<sup>4</sup>. Not all will be relevant to CLS pupils (or to your specific subject), and many of the tips may seem obvious to experienced teachers, but I would rather include too many pointers than too few!

- Simplify the language not the content. Where possible, pre-teach subject-specific vocabulary. Illustrate and label (Science).
- Develop and maintain lesson routines, reference points etc. Use clear and consistent signals for classroom instruction. Announce lesson topics, announce section topics, exemplify, summarise the lesson. Provide frequent summations of the salient points.
- Read aloud. It helps if pupils can hear the words as well as see them on the page.

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<sup>4</sup> My thanks to staff at Sherborne School, Dean Close School and Fettes College in particular.

- Wait longer for answers to your questions. Pupils may need time to process the language before they can think of the answer and then respond.
- Pupils may not be familiar with the concept of group work or working cooperatively. You may need to teach them how to do this.
- Sit EAL pupils at the front so that you can see what they are taking down. It may help to check that they have written prep correctly in their homework diaries.
- Try to avoid idiomatic / colloquial expressions, e.g. “You are not making any headway” or “have a go at it”.
- Write instructions on the board – do not assume verbal notices have been understood.
- If an instruction is not understood, re-phrase rather than repeat. Ask the pupil to repeat it back if you are not sure if they have understood.
- Keep a corner of the board for writing key topic-related vocabulary as it comes up. Encourage pupils to copy this into the back of their books under the appropriate topic heading for ease of reference.

**And finally ...**

Please do see me if you have any concerns about pupils that you teach, and if you know that I am helping a pupil in your class and would like me to cover a particular topic or skill, let me know and I will see what I can do.