

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) POLICY

POLICY INTENDED FOR: Students

CATEGORY: EAL

POLICY IMPLEMENTED BY: Principal

REVIEWED BY: Deputy Principal Academic

REVIEWED DATE: Updated October 2025

NEXT REVIEW: September 2026

Contents

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY	2
HIGH QUALITY EAL PROVISION	2
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	3
SUPPORT	4
FURTHER INFORMATION.....	4

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The College's English as an Additional Language (EAL) policy is designed to:

- Ensure that all students whose first language is not English have access to the full range of subjects and Super Curriculum opportunities offered;
- Give all students whose first language is not English an equal opportunity to realise their full academic potential;
- Foster a supportive atmosphere, which gives recognition to the personal and cultural adjustments some of our international students may have to make when living and studying in the United Kingdom.

HIGH QUALITY EAL PROVISION

The EAL department exists to ensure that high quality EAL support is available to all students who require it and that all students whose first language is not English have access to the full range of subjects and Super Curriculum opportunities offered.

A core responsibility of the EAL department is ensuring that international students obtain the English language qualification(s) necessary for them to progress to the next stage in their studies:

- **In Year 9:** B1 Preliminary for Schools, which is a Cambridge course and assessment for students with CEFR levels of A2, B1 and B2;
- **In Year 10 and 11:** IGCSE English as a Second Language or IGCSE English Language;
- **In Year 12 and 13:** IELTS (the International English Language Testing System).

We also help EAL students to follow the academic curriculum by developing their subject-specific academic English language skills. This is done by ongoing liaison between EAL teachers and the subject teachers.

In lessons we focus on developing students' language skills and proficiency by:

- implementing appropriate strategies to ensure that EAL students are supported in accessing the full curriculum;
- providing a range of teaching materials that highlight the different ways in which English is used, including English for academic purposes;
- using technology to foster a meaningful learning environment;
- encouraging students to transfer their knowledge, skills and understanding of one language to another;
- monitoring progress systematically and ensuring that EAL students are set appropriate and challenging learning objectives;
- carrying out critical evaluation and reflecting on current progress of our academic programmes.

EAL teachers support language development through informative feedback on spoken and written language to ensure that students are able to use English confidently and competently. Reading is also encouraged through a class reader for Years 9-11. We promote language and study skills that enable EAL students to become independent learners.

We recognise the important role that all teachers play in developing English language acquisition. As language development is key to the success of EAL learners, the EAL teaching team supports subject teachers in order to embed language development across the curriculum, and to promote progress and attainment in each student's main subjects.

PRE-ARRIVAL ASSESSMENT

All international students whose first language is not English will have their English language level assessed prior to being offered a place. Exceptions will be made only where the College is satisfied that the student's English is already of a very high standard and that s/he has a formal qualification in English that is typically accepted as an academic entry requirement by schools or universities as appropriate.

The college uses the Oxford Placement Test to assess English levels for entry. These online English tests are used by British independent and international schools to assess students both pre- and post-arrival, aiding both student recruitment and admission.

Oxford Placement Tests are designed and academically managed by international experts in testing and assessment and are aligned to international standards. The English tests are benchmarked against the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The tests are securely delivered with each test being unique.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

International students are required to have minimum levels of competency in English Language to pursue courses offered by Oxford International College Brighton.

All students must satisfy the minimum requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration.

In addition, for entry to

- our A Level programme must normally have an overall level of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent
- Our One Year GCSE programme must normally have an overall level of IELTS 5.5 or equivalent.
- Year 10 students must normally have an overall level of IELTS of 5 (assessed through Oxford Placement Test)
- Year 9 entry a minimum of IELTS 4.5 (assessed through Oxford Placement Test)

In some cases, students who fall just below the required level may be admitted on the condition that they attend additional Academic English Pathway (AEP) classes alongside their GCSE or A Level programme of study, and their IELTS programme. Progress in these classes is reviewed on a termly basis.

SUPPORT

IELTS CLASSES FOR A LEVEL STUDENTS

Year 12 students attend a minimum of three weekly IELTS classes. They remain on the IELTS programme throughout the first two terms of Year 12 at which point they will be able to take an IELTS examination at a local IELTS testing centre in Brighton. To leave the IELTS programme, a student should achieve a 7.0 in each component and a 7.5 overall, or until they achieve the IELTS band score required by their chosen universities.

Year 13 students attend a minimum of two weekly IELTS classes until they achieve the English language requirement for their chosen university courses.

Students are assessed regularly to review their progress, and additional classes are added if required.

Students are entered for an IELTS exam at the appropriate time.

ENGLISH CLASSES FOR GCSE STUDENTS

GCSE students are assessed when they arrive to determine if they will follow the IGCSE programme in English as a first or second language.

EAL SUPPORT ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

All teachers are expected to give special attention to the language element of their subjects, checking whether basic English language errors will affect learning and performance. They are encouraged to liaise with the Head of English and the Deputy Principal Academic regarding any requirements for further support.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about English as an additional language at OIC Brighton, please speak with the Principal.