

EAL Policy

Rationale

The aim of the EAL department is to provide a supportive environment in which overseas boys can develop and enhance their English language skills in order to achieve their educational goals, both at Ludgrove School and beyond.

Needs Assessment

On arrival at Ludgrove each boy for whom English is not his first language undergoes a needs analysis, written and spoken, to identify the type, level and amount of EAL tuition required. Based on the results of this an individual programme of study is devised for each boy to improve the language areas highlighted by the assessment. This action plan may include a mixture of English Language skills and/or support specific areas of the curriculum.

Teaching and Learning

Boys are withdrawn from non-core lessons and, where possible, attend EAL lessons during rest periods and break times. The four core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are focused on, both singly and within the context of the curriculum as required. When appropriate, lessons may contribute to their preparation for the English component of the Common Entrance Examination.

Depending on an individual boy's needs, he may use the EAL teacher as a resource for English language support for his core subjects. In each lesson, however, there would be some focus on grammar, vocabulary, writing or speaking skills, following the principals of 'context based language learning.' Should an individual have no need of specific subject support it may be more appropriate to work on language skills in a general context. At present this is done using a range of resources including "Language in Use" (Cambridge University Press) at pre-intermediate and intermediate levels.

The workbook that accompanies these publications is provided for boys who come to the school on a short-term basis to gain experience of the English way of life. They have additional sessions during which they work independently on grammar and vocabulary tasks appropriate to their language level.

Cambridge Exams

The Cambridge University course prepares pupils for the PET (Preliminary English Test) and, later, the Cambridge First Certificate. These are well known and highly regarded examinations on the Continent, and may be appropriate for older boys, should they wish to prepare for them. The examination can be taken either in the UK or on their return home.

Pastoral considerations

It must be remembered that the overseas boys do not have the same access to their families as boys whose parents/guardians are based in England and that they may

therefore need to be subject to special arrangements regarding telephone calls and may need particular help and reassurance from the adults with whom they come into contact. Where appropriate the EAL teacher will liaise with Mrs Barber or his Division master or mistress if there are any pastoral concerns. In a one-to-one situation the EAL teacher has the opportunity to provide a classroom atmosphere as one where boys can grow in confidence and where mistakes are accepted and viewed as an essential part of learning.

KHB/DS
19th September 2019