



EAL POLICY

Last reviewed:	March 2022
Next review due:	March 2024
Reviewed by:	Head of EAL

1. Purpose of this policy

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

- Ensure that all international students have access to the full range of subjects and extra curricula opportunities offered;
- Give international students an equal opportunity to realise their full academic potential;
- Foster a supportive atmosphere, which gives recognition to the personal and cultural adjustments our international students have to make when living and studying in the United Kingdom.

2. High quality EAL provision

The EAL department exists to ensure that high quality EAL support is available to all international students who need it and that all international students have access to the full range of subjects and extra curricula 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:** Trinity Foundation (A2 on the CEFR), Trinity I (B1 on the CEFR), Trinity II (B2 on the CEFR);
- **In Year 10 and 11:** IGCSE English as a Second Language and GCSE English Language and Literature ;
- **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. 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.

3. Pre-arrival assessment

All international students for whom English is not their first language will have their English language level assessed prior to being offered a place. Exceptions will be made only where the school 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 school uses the online assessment test created for schools by PASSWORD English Language Testing. PASSWORD 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.

PASSWORD 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, with different age-appropriate versions being available.

The PASSWORD admissions test has been developed in consultation with d'Overbroeck's and has subsequently been adopted by a range of UK and overseas boarding schools, including members of BAISIS and COBIS.

In most cases, even where a student already holds an IELTS certificate of a sufficient standard, the EAL team will still want to assess the student's language level using PASSWORD. This is because it allows us to benchmark all our prospective students and work out the correct level of language support required for them, as well as advising the admissions team on an appropriate entry point to the school.

EAL Exemption policy for students joining Year 12 or Year 13

Students entering Sixth Form will be exempt from admission tests if they hold one or more of the following qualifications:

1. IELTS Academic with 7.0 or above in each element
2. ISE III with 'distinction' in all components
3. Pearson PTE Academic UKVI 78 overall with 71 in all skills
4. GCSE English Language: A or 7
5. GCSE English Literature: A or 7
6. IGCSE English as a First Language: A or 7
7. IGCSE English Literature: A or 7

4. Further information

Further information about the EAL department and the support given to international students can be found in the EAL Handbook, which is available from the school office mail@doverbroecks.com.

Associated policies available from the [school website](#):

- Curriculum policy
- Equal opportunities policy for students

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