

## English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy (Senior)

### 1. Aims and Objectives

- I. We aim to:
  - a) Contribute positively to the experience of all non-native speakers.
  - b) Help EAL students make appropriate progress at this stage of their education.
  - c) Help prepare EAL students for the next stage of their education whether in the UK or abroad.
  - d) Give students the language and confidence to integrate as fully as possible in the curriculum, ideally reaching a stage where they no longer need the support of the EAL department.
- II. We fulfil these aims in a variety of ways and very much depending on the needs of the individual:
  - a) Through teaching English in small groups.
  - b) By supporting students and staff in other academic subjects.
  - c) By providing an open door approach to support.
  - d) By getting involved in academic and other aspects of the EAL students' school lives, as tutors/teachers.

### 2. Admissions

- I. Students come to Bede's from all over the world; we currently have over 30 different nationalities at the school.
- II. All overseas students must demonstrate a good command of the English language before we will offer a place, with prospective students having reached the following standards, or their equivalents. Prospective students will be tested before a place at the school is confirmed; in addition, all overseas students are interviewed either in person or by Skype. The HoD is on the admissions panel and conducts interviews.

<i>For students joining Year 12 (A Levels)</i>	A level comparable to <b>IELTS 5.5</b> or <b>IGCSE English Grade C</b>
<i>For students joining the Pre-Sixth Course</i>	Level comparable to <b>IELTS 5.0</b>
<i>For students joining Year 10</i>	Level comparable to <b>Preliminary English Test (PET)</b>
<i>For students joining Year 9</i>	<b>Bede's EAL test.</b>

- III. If on starting at the school a student is unable to match his or her previous level of English, we may have to change their programme of study. In very extreme cases, we may ask the student to withdraw.

### 3. Setting

- I. As soon as possible after a student's arrival at the school he or she will be given a placement test to ensure he or she is swiftly provided with the most suitable EAL programme, and also (if required) to assist the Year Head in arranging an overall academic course.

### 4. Charges

- I. All students in years 9, 10 and 11 will receive specialist EAL teaching in their scheduled English lessons (non-chargeable). **In addition to these lessons, we require all second language English speakers to choose EAL as one of their option blocks unless their level is deemed to be satisfactory (chargeable)**
- II. Support that is not chargeable in addition to school fees includes:
  - a) Day and evening prep support sessions
  - b) Sessions for 6th form during activities
  - c) Tutoring by the EAL team
  - d) Sessions for study support skills

### 5. Courses

- I. We are a recognised Cambridge exam centre.
- II. The emphasis is on providing students with the language skills which will enable them to be successful in all their GCSE and A level subjects and beyond.
- III. Year 9 students work towards improving their general English in readiness for GCSE study in year 10. They work towards either the Cambridge ESOL PET or FCE exams.
- IV. Year 10 students study towards the IGCSE Second Language examination, taking the examination in the summer of year 11. They sit the Cambridge ESOL FCE or CAE exam at the end of the year.
- V. Pre 6 students study towards either the IGCSE First or Second Language examination depending on level. This is completed in a single year.
- VI. L6th students study either the IELTS examination or IGCSE First Language, depending on their requirements for university.
- VII. IELTS is taught in the Upper 6th to help ensure those students without the requisite qualifications reach the level of proficiency required for universities in the UK. It is universally recognised by universities as a measure of English proficiency. All students must reach the required level for entry to university before stopping EAL lessons.
- VIII. In exceptional cases, the CPE is offered for those students we believe to be truly outstanding.

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