



CHARTERHOUSE

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Each year the School admits some pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). Charterhouse aims to be an academically focused, all-round school and pupils entering the School will require a good level of English in order to succeed. English is a compulsory subject in Years 9-11. All pupils at Charterhouse sit IGCSE English Language and Literature.

Charterhouse has provision for the teaching and learning of EAL pupils to ensure they are able to access the curriculum fully. Charterhouse teachers will provide support for EAL pupils in the classroom, but where it is determined additional support is needed, this can be provided in the form of extra one-to-one or small group lessons, for which an additional charge may be made.

Pupils who enter the School in the sixth form from countries where English is not the first language receive guidance on and support for English qualifications required for entry to UK Universities. As a school community we celebrate our many truly bilingual and multilingual students and the language skills they have worked hard to achieve. We encourage them to pursue their studies in their mother tongue as well as to develop excellence in their studies in English.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: SEN, Disability, Curriculum, Equal Opportunities and Admissions.

ADMISSIONS (FROM ADMISSIONS POLICY)

13+ entry: Pupils should be registered before the end of December of the year before entry and are then tested at their own schools or at a recognised testing centre, usually in January. Tests are also held on specified days at Charterhouse. Candidates who have done well enough to be considered for a place will be invited to Charterhouse for interview. If essential, a Skype interview is possible. The entrance tests are set in English, Science and Mathematics, and a high level of performance is expected. We will also ask for a report from the candidate's school. Those who are successful in the tests will be offered unconditional places, and parents will be asked to pay a deposit to secure the place. This may include advance payment of the first term's fees. Some reserve places may also be offered.

16+ entry: Pupils should submit an application form by October of the year before entry and we will then ask for a school report. Tests and interviews are held at Charterhouse in November. We expect all candidates to come to Charterhouse, except those who sit the tests in Hong Kong which are supervised by Academic Asia. In some cases, we are willing to test candidates at Charterhouse at their own convenience, but it is best to come on the test day itself. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of performance in the tests. Offers of places are made at the beginning of December and parents will be asked to pay a deposit to secure the place, which may include advance payment of the first term's fees. If places are left after this process, we will test applicants at Charterhouse the following year, but it is advisable to apply at the correct time in order to maximise the chance of success.

Candidates from Hong Kong: Candidates for both Year 9 and Year 12 entry should contact Academic Asia (www.academic-asia.com) by late August of the year before entry. They will be interviewed at the Top Schools Event in September and then sit the entrance tests in Hong Kong in November.

Pre-tests for Overseas candidates: As a result of the large number of overseas applicants to Charterhouse and the wide differences in educational provision which they have received, it has been decided to require them to take the UKiset battery of online tests that has been introduced by Gabbitas, the leading British educational consultancy. Applicants will also take a written English paper. The tests will be organised in the candidate's own country, or in the UK if it is more convenient. Details of the tests can be found on the UKiset website (www.ukiset.com).

Unless a candidate is already registered, parents should inform the Admissions Office that they want their son or daughter to be considered for entry to Charterhouse before registering for the UKiset tests. If the tests have already been taken, parents should inform UKiset that they want the results to be sent to Charterhouse.

Please note that success in the UKiset pre-test will not [necessarily] lead to the offer of a place at Charterhouse, but candidates whose performance suggests that they have little chance of gaining a place will not be allowed to apply or to sit the entrance examination.

Charterhouse recognises that some pupils with EAL may also have a special educational need or learning difficulty. The School is committed to enabling all of its pupils to fulfil their potential.

DELIVERY OF EAL

The delivery of EAL support rests within the Educational Support Department. Our practices are designed to enable EAL pupils to access the curriculum and public examinations, and to help the pupils improve their academic skills and learning strategies, whilst taking responsibility for their own learning. EAL provision is available, in principle, to all pupils whose first language is not English and is provided by a Specialist teacher. However, this provision is not intended for the purpose of one-off English tutoring for examinations but rather as support for weak language skills identified on entry. In practice, most EAL pupils will neither need nor want language support.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Under School

Prior to arrival in the School, based on the admissions tests that pupils have completed, an initial assessment is made of a pupil's likely need for EAL support. The Heads of English and SEN meet with the Heads of Year and the Deputy Headmaster (Academic) to discuss pupil profiles.

The aim is to secure requisite language skills by the end of their first year at Charterhouse, for some pupils this may involve EAL Specialist teacher sessions on a weekly basis. The Heads of English and SEN then determine the need for continued support beyond the first year, where necessary. Pupils who arrive part-way through the academic year are monitored by their English teacher and referred to the Head of English and Head of Year, who then determine whether or not EAL support is required.

Sixth Form

EAL pupils in the Sixth Form will usually receive one or two lessons per week according to need. These lessons are agreed on an individual basis and support the pupils in improving their language skills and/or working towards an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) qualification. This support is available to EAL pupils, whether sitting Pre-U, A Level or the IB Diploma Programme.