



## DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

### EAL POLICY

The UK Government defines EAL learners as:

*'A pupil is recorded to have English as an additional language if they are exposed to a language at home that is known or believed to be other than English. This measure is not a measure of English language proficiency or a good proxy for recent immigration.'* (DfE Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics July 2020).

Historically, the vast majority of the EAL learners at Dauntsey's School have been boarders at the School and have resided overseas during school holidays: this though has changed to a small extent in recent years due to the geo-political situations in certain parts of the world.

The Department exists to supply English Language skills to international pupils to enable them to succeed in their studies and go on to English-speaking universities if they so wish. Pupils are prepared for public exams – IGCSE ESL in Fifth Form and IELTS in Lower Sixth Form.

The aim of the Department is to give each pupil sufficient competence in language to be able to deal successfully with subject work, social situations and the day-to-day requirements of studying at Dauntsey's School and living in a different country.

The Department plays an important role in settling new pupils into the routine and expectations of the school. Any issues concerning homesickness, settling in, schoolwork etc. are passed onto house tutors. Guidance about school regulations, differences in teaching styles and expectations is given to the new pupils. This support is to help pupils adjust to and understand their new learning and living environment.

The Department can help with colleagues' understanding of cultural differences and expectations. This knowledge of overseas pupils' experience of education will help staff understand the new pupils and their behaviour in class. The Department helps with developing classroom strategies with subject teachers and can provide suggestions or guidance on the creation of or hand-outs which should lead to appropriate differentiation.

Each year the Head of Department gives a presentation to new members of academic and pastoral staff as well as ECTs so that they are fully aware of how overseas pupils can be supported academically, linguistically and pastorally. In the weekly department meeting, pastoral matters are a standing agenda item and any issues arising are reported to relevant House Staff.

The Department aims to be an ‘open house’ for both pupils and staff. We offer both pastoral and educational support. Additionally, the Department operates the EAL club which can focus, according to demand, on informal help with linguistic matters, boardgames and chat or participation in the Podcast Club. The Club is open to all members of the school community. It is hoped that this will help integration and understanding across the age groups and nationalities. There is also a Sixth Form IELTS club operating regularly for pupils who would like to discuss typical IELTS topics, practise tasks or just have a chat and a hot drink.

There are currently three members of the EAL Department -

Mrs C Shakeshaft, Head of EAL (Monday to Friday) have changed this from D.B

Mr A Barker, part-time Teacher of EAL (Mondays)

Mrs E. Crozier, part-time Teacher of EAL. - this is also a change

Further details on roles can be found in Appendix 2

### **Assessment and Syllabus**

All new overseas pupils are assessed before arrival at the school through entrance exams, exceptional circumstances (such as the arrival of Ukrainian pupils during 2021-22) notwithstanding. Upon arrival, there are further benchmark assessments for Fourth Form and Lower Sixth Form to ensure an accurate picture of pupils’ abilities and needs is available. This covers a 2-week period which is then followed by a departmental meeting to discuss the pupils’ requirements. If it is felt that the pupils would be unable to thrive in mainstream English, they are offered EAL lessons in place of mainstream English or alongside mainstream English. Others remain in mainstream English but can seek support from the Department to supplement their studies if this is required. Subject-based help is often necessary which can be covered in extra 1-1 EAL lessons. Colleagues are welcome to ask for advice from the EAL department and may submit material which may be challenging to overseas pupils and require some EAL support.

It is not always possible to lay down a structured overall EAL scheme of work because divisions by year group often bear no correlation to ability in English language. This is particularly true in the Lower school. The department has overall targets for each year group but will individualise these to meet all the pupils’ needs and can be adapted as the year progresses.

Pupils in the Fourth, Fifth and Lower Sixth Form are entered for public exams and follow appropriate IGCSE ESL or IELTS schemes of work for each syllabus. Upper Sixth Form pupils who do not achieve the IELTS bands they need for university entry at the end of Lower Sixth Form are given extra lessons to help them prepare for a further exam.

Appendix 1 outlines the EAL Support and Qualifications at Dauntsey's School

### **Monitoring and Marking**

Monitoring is carried out in every language-based interaction in which a pupil is involved. Regular consultation with subject colleagues on an informal basis helps the EAL department to keep track of difficulties and successes. The pupils take part in school exams during the year when all subjects, including English, are examined.

Prep is set in accordance with School policy. Emphasis in marking is upon constructive and dialogic feedback and highlighting successful communication while accuracy is not neglected.

### **Department Training**

Staff attend and undertake appropriate courses when possible. Weekly timetabled staff meetings (as well as other ad-hoc discussions) are held to discuss individuals and groups and to develop programmes of support. Sharing good practice is a recurring agenda item for the Department's weekly meetings.

Each member of the team is expected to provide at least one mini-CPD session per academic year focussing on specific teaching techniques, marking or other areas of pedagogical interest for the rest of the Department. IELTS and IGCSE ESL marking is standardised in house each year to ensure our marking meets the exam criteria.

Each year the EAL Department is represented at the TEFLIS Group Meeting to receive training and exchange ideas with other specialists in similar independent schools.

### **Equal Opportunities, SMSC and EDI**

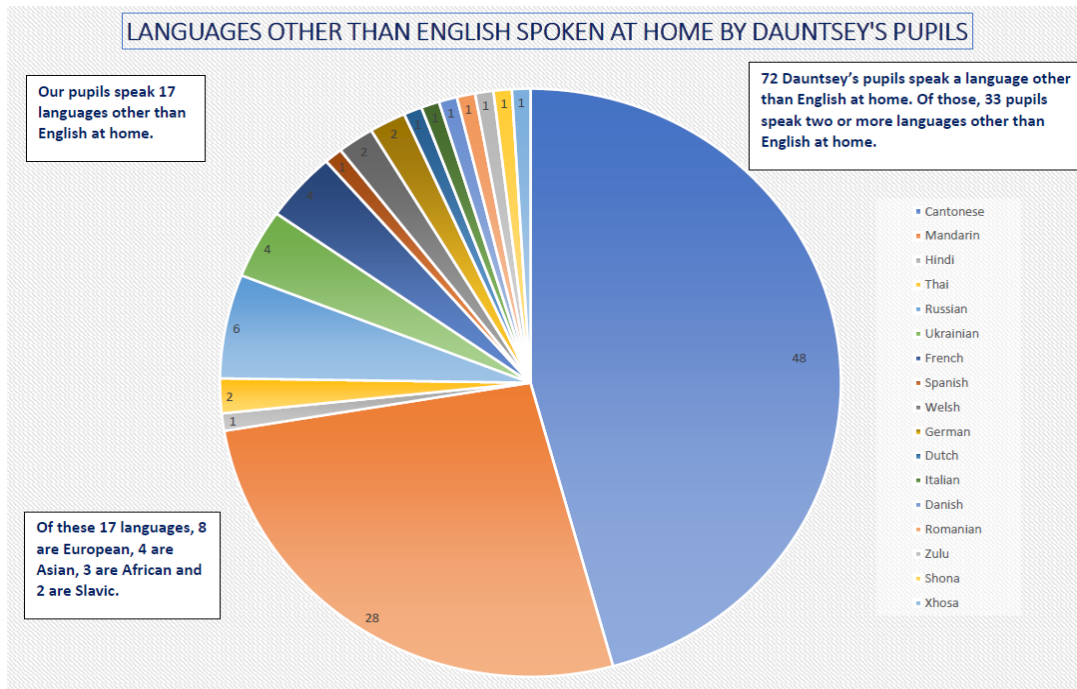
The EAL Department operates an Equal Opportunities Policy in line with School policy. The Department exists to promote the welfare of overseas students. They are encouraged to play a full part in both the academic and the social life of the School. There is an International Society which provides opportunities for overseas pupils to take the initiative in social life and which actively encourages social integration between pupils of different nationalities and between overseas and British pupils. There are a number of lessons throughout the school year focussing on a range of SMSC and EDI topics in which pupils are given the opportunity to ask questions, express opinions and be creative.

## Dauntsey's School EAL Figures as of September 2024

There are currently approximately 60 pupils with EAL at the School  
29 of whom are currently in EAL lessons at the School –

First Form – 0  
Second Form – 0  
Third Form – 3  
Fourth Form – 5  
Fifth Form – 7  
Lower Sixth Form – 14  
Upper Sixth Form – 0

A survey was undertaken by the Academic Coordinator during the 2022-23 academic year which provided the following information about pupils who speak a language at home other than English.



## Contact with Parents and Guardians

Each School year group has one parents' meeting per academic year and the EAL Department is represented by teaching staff at these evenings. If the EAL pupils' parents/guardians are unable to attend these evenings, the Department will write a brief report in lieu of a face-to-face meeting. The Department is also very happy to offer online meetings on Microsoft Teams should parents prefer this either at these times or at other junctures during the school year.

## Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils

The EAL Department provides a range of activities and enrichment opportunities for all EAL pupils along with the AGT among the group to lead, thrive, shine and shape at Dauntsey's School including the following annual events –

EAL Reading and Cream Tea Event	Autumn Term	WDR	All EAL pupils
EAL Voyage Magazine	Autumn Term	In dept	4th-5th Form editors
EAL Debates/ Public Speaking Competitions	Autumn Term	WDR	4th Form L6th Form
EAL Debates/ Public Speaking Competitions	Spring Term	WDR	4th Form L6th Form
EAL Debates/ Public Speaking Competitions	Summer Term	WDR	4th Form L6th Form
Vocab Week Story Competition	Spring Term	In dept	1st - 3rd Form comp 4th - U6th Form comp (whole school)
Poetry, hot chocolate and pastries Event	Spring Term	WDR	All EAL pupils
500 Word Story Competition	Summer Term every other year	In dept	1st-4th Form

(Events and times may vary year on year) added this

## Devices

From September 2024, all pupils within the school will be expected to have and use their devices in class. The EAL Department will follow the general school policies on device use in class while still using paper tasks in order to prepare pupils for their public exams. These pieces of work are scanned and uploaded to OneNote.

CL Shakeshaft  
Head of EAL

Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2025

## Appendix

### Appendix 1: EAL Support and Qualifications at Dauntsey's School

**First to Third Form** pupils are taught in small groups. The schemes of work for these courses are determined by the needs and levels of the pupils within the groups. Second Form would normally work through a coursebook leading to B2 (CEFR). Third Form have focused on FCE style academic work to prepare them for IGCSE ESL in Middle School.

**Fourth and Fifth Form** pupils either take GCSE English Language and Literature with the English Department or IGCSE English as a Second Language with the EAL Department. We currently use Cambridge Assessment International **Education's English as a Second Language (Speaking endorsement) – 0993** as the basis of the course with **9** being the top grade awarded.

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language.

#### Syllabus overview

The syllabus:

- is suitable for learners whose first language is not English
- develops learners' ability to understand and use English in a range of situations
- builds learners' awareness of the nature of language and the four language-learning skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking
- focuses on practical communication for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study
- develops transferable skills to complement other areas of the curriculum.

Marks for the speaking component in this syllabus do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components.

Further details can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-second-language-speaking-endorsement-9-1-0993/>

**Lower Sixth Form** pupils work towards taking the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam in their summer term with a view to further enhancing their academic English, developing essay writing and analytical skills, supporting their other subjects and achieving the entrance requirements for their university of choice. If a pupil were not to achieve the Overall Band score or Writing score they need for Higher Education then 1-1 or small group classes can be arranged in the Upper Sixth to support them as they retake the exam.

The highest IELTS Band Score possible is 9 which equates to an Expert User – further details about the examination and its criteria can be found here – <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/> <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

Generally, Lower Sixth Form EAL pupils will have 4 timetabled IELTS lessons per week. However, depending on pupils' A-Level choices and EPQ take-up, these may take place during Long Break or Prep.

## **Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities**

The Head of EAL is responsible for EAL provision at the School. They lead a team of three teachers and assist with the admissions process for prospective EAL pupils. The Head of EAL is line-managed by the Deputy Head Academic.

The key responsibilities of the EAL teachers include:

- Delivering specialist EAL exam classes as an alternative to English Language and Literature for international pupils who require this support.
- Delivering EAL support to international pupils alongside their academic subjects.
- Advising staff and international pupils on pre-entry English requirements for Higher Education.
- Advising teaching colleagues on how to help pupils with EAL in their classes.
- Liaising with pastoral (House) staff and pupils' parents/ guardians through the School reporting systems, parents' meetings and responding to enquiries.
- Celebrating the cultures, languages and diversity of our pupils.
- Adhering to all Dauntsey's School policies and procedures.