HEADINGTON RYE
OXFORD

# EAL Policy

## Senior School

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| Reviewed by: | Deputy Head Academic |
| Date of last Review | September 2025 |
| Next Review Date: | In line with legislative updates |

Headington Rye Oxford,
Oxford, OX3 7TD Tel (01865) 759100

**Definition of EAL**
The term 'English as an additional language' (EAL) describes pupils for whom English is not their first, or in the case of bilingual students, one of their first languages. The EAL Department at Headington Rye Oxford works to ensure that language does not become a restrictive factor in a pupil's education at, and integration into, the School.

**Aims of EAL provision at Headington Rye Oxford**

- To identify students for whom English is not their first language and determine if dedicated teaching is required beyond the differentiated support given by academic staff within normal curriculum teaching.

- To use EAL teaching support to bring a pupil's comprehension and application of the English language up to a standard which enables them to access the curriculum.

- To support integration into the wider life of the School, and where applicable, boarding communities.

- To work alongside the Head of Sixth Form to ensure that all Sixth Form pupils who do not have a GCSE English qualification are given the opportunity to prepare for the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam in order to satisfy Anglophone university entrance requirements.

- To ensure that all staff are aware of a) all students who have EAL needs, and b) those who attend EAL support lessons.

- To support Admissions decisions with respect to applicant performances in OUP placement tests as required.

- To provide specialist 1-1 teaching where appropriate.

**Identification of EAL students**
Students who require EAL support are identified in the School admissions process, and through the Oxford Placement Test. Once at the School, they may also be referred to the EAL department by staff identifying the need for further support.

**Organisation of teaching**
The EAL Coordinator reports to the Deputy Head Academic.

The majority of EAL provision is delivered in weekly timetabled lessons to year group EAL cohorts, or on a 1-1 basis. These lessons usually represent a short-term intervention. Teaching may need to occur before or after school.

Additional help may also be given to EAL students at key times during the year on an *ad hoc* basis following requests from pupils, staff or parents. Specialist EAL support classes are billed separately. Charges are published in the Fees section on the School website.

The School can prepare new students entering Year 12 who do not have a suitable GCSE English Language qualification, and who plan to apply to UK universities, for the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam** if requested. IELTS preparation lessons incur a charge. Charges are published in the Fees section of the School website.

**Integration with other departments**
The EAL Coordinator and the Head of Learning Development work closely with

academic departments, particularly the English department, to ensure the EAL needs of all students are met. The EAL Department also liaises regularly with pupils' English teachers, enabling them to support the specific needs of these students in relation to the demands of the English Department curriculum.