

English as an Additional Language Policy

All students for whom English is an additional language (EAL) are identified through the College's entrance procedures. First language is the language to which the child was initially exposed during early development and continues to use in the home and community. If a child acquires English subsequent to early development, then English is not their first language no matter how proficient in it they become.

Students attending St. George's College will have met the entry requirements outlined in the admissions policy. Expectations are that EAL students will have full and equal access to the curriculum and be fully integrated within the College with the opportunity to reach their academic potential. Teachers are aware that students bring to school different experiences, interests and strengths which will influence the way in which they learn. Teachers are supported in meeting the individual needs of students and appropriate strategies and support are provided as necessary by the academic support department.

Many of our students are bilingual or multilingual and have equal or similar strengths in English and their first language. Bilingual is a term often used as a shorthand description for pupils learning English as an additional language. Bilingual students have use or access to more than one language at home or at school – it does not necessarily imply full fluency in both or all languages.

Students for whom English is an additional language have educational needs of a particular kind. Proficiency in English is assessed both in the entrance examination and on entry into the school. Students in Year 1 are screened to assess reading skills and a spelling test to inform teachers of basic literacy skills. This assessment process is repeated in the autumn term Year 3. Progress is monitored both informally and formally by subject teachers, tutors, head of year and head of section.

Appropriate access arrangements in Key Stage 3 and GCSE/AS/A2 examinations will be sought for students who meet the necessary criteria.

(Having a home language other than English is not a learning difficulty. Students with special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND) or additional learning needs (ALN) and the needs of EAL students are not identical neither are they mutually exclusive).

Reviewed: - September 2015

Date for review: - September 2016