



EAL POLICY

BEDSTONE COLLEGE

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Date	September 2020
Review Frequency	2 Yr
Review Date	September 2022
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EAL Policy

This policy applies to all members of our college community, including boarders and those in our EYFS setting. Bedstone College is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the [UK Equality Act \(2010\)](#). Further details are available in the college's Equality and Diversity Policy document.

Approximately 30% of Bedstone's students reside outside the UK and are not native English speakers. We recognise that international students have particular needs and we aim to support them, both in their academic progress and their social integration. The English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department is a flexible, responsive unit that aims to meet the varied demands of the different students who come to us from all corners of the world.

We recognise that the needs for these students may be different according to the age, language level and cultural background of each student, therefore we have to be ready to adapt at all times to meet their specific needs. Furthermore, each student will have different academic strengths and weaknesses and they will often require different amounts of tuition relative to their ability in the four skills of language learning (speaking, reading, writing and listening).

Bedstone's EAL Department takes a holistic approach to the English Language education of our students and we aim to encourage their social integration into the life of the school as well as concentrating on their academic progress. We deal with the day to day language skills they will need to communicate their essential needs and to mix with the English first language students and play a full part in the life of the college.

We believe that having international students at Bedstone benefits all students and presents opportunities for cross-cultural communication which can enhance understanding between individuals and nations from all around the world, contributing to efforts for world peace, respect for all races and creeds and to an appreciation of the wonderful, varied world we live in.

In the academic sphere one aim of the EAL department is to support students in their studies in other subjects (through formal language training, in-lesson-support, whole school academic words scheme) and to further develop students' general and academic language skills in areas which will be useful for all aspects of study and personal social development. We also believe that students, especially those not from western-European cultures, should gain an understanding of the cultural richness of British life. We deliver structured lessons in 'British Culture' and enhance these with visits to local businesses and areas of interest.

The ultimate aim for EAL students at Bedstone in terms of achievement is for them to gain a 6.5 score in the Cambridge University IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam by the time they leave the college at 18. This score is sufficient for entry to most British Universities for international students. By age 16 students should be able to score a minimum of 5.0 in IELTS (sufficient for entry onto 'A' Level programmes in the UK).

Written 1 st September 2012 Reviewed August 2014 Reviewed April 2015 Reviewed April 2016	Reviewed April 2018 Reviewed September 2018 Reviewed September 2020
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