



## MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

### *Policy for teaching English as an additional language (EAL)*

*This policy addresses ISI Regulatory Requirements Part 1, Para 2 and Part 6, Para 32.*

#### *Policy Statement*

Language plays an important part in supporting the College's mission statement. Within the College boarding community many languages exist side by side and pupils are encouraged to compare languages and the cultures that are associated with them.

Marlborough College is committed to providing a quality education in English for pupils from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and to providing support for pupils whose English is weak. The school recognises the important role that teachers play in developing language acquisition and also acknowledges the importance of first-language development. The College's Curriculum Policy clearly states the aim of the College to stimulate, challenge and support all pupils, and to deliver a curriculum which is inclusive, and fosters development of the key competencies: speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy.

As the school makes welcome pupils with a variety of linguistic backgrounds, it is vitally important that its English as an Additional Language (EAL) policy is flexible, thereby allowing the school to incorporate the needs of different pupils and their learning styles, while at the same time allowing them to benefit from our pedagogical and educational methods and strategies. This offers the individual not only the opportunity, to acquire facility and fluency in the English language, whilst providing recognition of the first language, but is also in keeping with the school's promotion of multicultural awareness, and its recognition and encouragement of a global outlook.

#### *Delivery of EAL*

Marlborough College seeks to promote a whole school policy approach through which all members of staff are aware and informed of the needs of all pupils with English as an Additional Language. Our practices are designed to enable EAL pupils to access the curriculum and public examinations, and to help such pupils improve their academic skills and learning strategies, to take responsibility for their own learning and to understand his/her learning profile.

Responsibility for the delivery of EAL support rests with the EAL Coordinator within the Learning Support Department. The principal aim of EAL support is to give all students from overseas whose first language is not English the linguistic ability and confidence to deal with their studies, activities and social interactions while they are at Marlborough College. The EAL provision aims to support and develop pupils' abilities to communicate effectively in speech and writing in a language which is not their first language. EAL support develops pupils' appreciation and knowledge of British culture, etiquette and behaviour, while maintaining their indebtedness to their own culture. EAL provision is available, in principle, to all pupils whose first language is not English.

Within the EAL provision the College aims to:

- advise on linguistic level of international pupils applying to the school when asked to do so;
- assess proficiency in English of EAL pupils new to the school and communicate this to the whole staff, together with any other relevant information as requested;
- provide group and individual classes with a focus on academic English;
- provide students with opportunities to gain a recognised English Language qualification, such as IELTS, for University entry;
- support EAL pupils in specific subjects they are having difficulty with;
- liaise with EAL pupils' academic subject teachers to ensure tailored support.

### *Identifying EAL pupils who may need academic help*

Information on potential EAL pupils, including age, first language, level of English, whether they have studied previously in an English medium school or have special interests or abilities, is normally obtained by the Admissions Department in advance of a pupil's arrival. This is done on the basis of test results and reports from the pupil's previous school.

However, following their arrival at the school, the proficiency level of new EAL pupils is assessed using the Oxford Placement Test and those who require extra language provision are identified. Ongoing assessment of a pupil's academic progress may indicate a need for EAL support. In addition, requests for support at any time may be made by a pupil, parents or by a pupil's teacher/tutor/Housemaster or Housemistress.

New Shell EAL pupils may attend small group English Language lessons in which students focus on honing their English language skills in preparation for the rigorous academic life at Marlborough College. Lessons to prepare students for Cambridge IELTS exam for university entrance are available upon request. In addition, EAL classes are also given on an individual one to one basis for linguistic and subject-specific support and these are available for all year groups.

The EAL provision is very flexible in order to take into account the wide range of different educational backgrounds and expectations of our pupils, different levels and abilities, different linguistic needs and the different dynamics of class, small group and individual teaching. We endeavour to ensure that our lessons maintain pace, variety and challenge, encourage active learning and are appropriately differentiated. Most importantly, we aim to provide pupils with the linguistic competence and academic skills to succeed in their subjects.

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