

Ewell Castle Junior School

Policy regarding English as an Additional Language (EAL)



(This document forms part of the School Admissions and Curriculum Policies)

Entry Criteria

At Ewell Castle, we welcome applications from students for whom English is not their first language or is not the principal language spoken at home. We welcome the diversity brought to our community by different cultures.

We currently offer up to a maximum of 10% of our places in each year group for EAL pupils. We feel that this represents an appropriate balance – such that the individual and the community achieve the maximum benefit.

It is preferable that an applicant has at least one year's experience of studying the curriculum in the English language, however, we accept those who have studied in their native tongue, but we may request an assessment to ascertain the level of proficiency in use of the English language particularly in later years. Indeed, the Year group that a pupil enters will be determined by their age (students with English summer birthdays are young for their age group), maturity and proficiency in English.

Entrance Assessment

The following aspects of **English** are tested at interview/initial stages in varying degrees of formality:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Grammar
- Comprehension and
- Writing

In addition a **Mathematics** assessment will be undertaken and time will be spent in the prospective **form group** involved in normal school activities, which will enable us to assess social interaction.

English Language Provision

There will be a small number of EAL students who arrive at Ewell Castle with excellent English and they are able to fit immediately into mainstream English classes at Key Stage 1 (to 5 years of age) and KS2 (to 11 years of age). In mainstream classes, EAL students follow the same curriculum as a native English speaker. However, their English language needs may differ.

There is the opportunity for EAL pupils to be taught extra English in small groups or individually. These lessons can be for up to two hours per week and will be taught by specialist

EAL teachers. There will be a charge for the extra provision (see Fees). The school will assess the need for extra English lessons within the first two weeks of the pupil entering the school.

We recognise that many students will supplement their English language tuition at Ewell Castle with tuition at language schools in the evenings, at weekends and during holidays. This practice is encouraged and will have obvious benefits. We also encourage contact between external tutors and our EAL department.

English Qualification

The provision made ensures that EAL pupils will be working towards the appropriate standard for progression to the next year and/or Key Stage.

English Language Progression

A student may join Ewell Castle Junior School at any age.

Parents/Guardians must be aware that the level of English being achieved by an EAL student – spoken and written, is constantly under review. Experience tells us that the language spoken at home is a critical factor in the development of learning a new language. There are many examples whereby a student's command of the language regresses if there is little/no English spoken at home – particularly during vacation periods.

The expected standard in English for entry into the Senior School (at end of KS2) is to be working at National Curriculum level 4 or above. This is one of the criteria adopted when determining placement in mainstream English or EAL classes at the Senior School.

Fees

Fees are set annually and reflect the nature and amount of specialist tuition. Invoices are presented in advance for the term or remainder of the term, dependent upon the time of joining the school. Any enquiries regarding fees should be referred to the Bursar.

Resources

Extra text books, readers and exercise books are included in the calculation of fees above however there will be some workbooks in which students will write and wish to retain. A separate charge will be made for these consumables.

Admissions & Residency

The usual admissions procedures apply in respect of Conditions of Entry (CoE) to Ewell Castle, with three additions.

- A copy of visa and passport details will be required to confirm date of entry to the UK and date of birth.

- In the case of guardianship, parent contact details and signatures are required in addition to those of the Guardian's. In the interests of the safety and well being of the student living away from home and family, and in a foreign country, the Social Services require that the school lodges contact details of guardians with the Department.
- The deposit of one term's fees are required upon entry to Ewell Castle for 'overseas' students. The deposit is held, without interest, in the general account of the school and will be repaid by means of a credit against the fees for the final term or other sums due to the school on leaving.

Co-ordination

After entry to the School, the point of contact for EAL pupils is the designated **Special Needs (inc. EAL) Co-ordinator**, in addition to the **Form Teacher** and **the Head and Deputy Head of the Junior School**.

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