



THE
KING'S SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Responsible Person: EAL Co-ordinator

Latest Review Completed: March 2026

Next Review Due: March 2027

Summary of changes compared to previous version:

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THE FIRST LANGUAGE

Specialist tuition is provided for those who are bilingual in French, German, Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish, Italian and Russian. This tuition is largely in the form of lessons within or outside the timetable, sometimes replacing another language or optional subject. The aim is to maintain a level of proficiency in their acquired language, develop reading and writing skills, educate them about the culture of their home country (since many have not lived there) and in many cases prepare them for English qualifications at iGCSE and A level/Pre-U, sometimes taken a year early.

An A level qualification in a bilingual language, taken one year early, is still accepted by most universities, including some prestigious ones e.g. King's College, London, so can be of great value to our international students.

For those who are bilingual in other languages, we are sometimes able to arrange similar levels of tuition at an extra cost to the parents.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Many pupils at King's speak English as an additional language. This means that although they may be fluent due to time spent in English schooling, English is not the main language spoken at home. The majority of these are sufficiently bilingual not to need extra English provision on entry to King's. They are fully immersed in lessons and culture from the start.

Every teacher at King's should consider themselves a teacher of English as an Additional Language (see teaching strategies below) and be aware that oral fluency may mask weak listening, reading or writing skills, as well as weak word knowledge.

Each department should use quality first teacher to ensure the needs of all EAL students are met, and have in place a policy on helping pupils for whom English is not their first language, relating to the skills and knowledge required to succeed in that subject. Struggling pupils should be referred either to the Learning Enhancement department, or to the EAL Coordinator.

There is a termly charge for all EAL lessons and courses.

EAL PROVISION 13+

Information from parents, liaison with feeder schools, results of baseline testing on arrival, exam results and referrals from subject staff may indicate that an EAL pupil would benefit from additional English lessons.

EAL lessons usually replace the study of a second foreign language, are provided within the timetable (4 periods per week) and taught by a specialist teacher. Lessons focus on varied topic work covering the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, with the aim of broadening vocabulary, improving grammar and writing skills and boosting confidence.

Subject teachers or HsMs may refer pupils to the EAL Coordinator or the SENCo at any time and pupils may refer themselves if they feel more support is necessary.

EAL PROVISION 14+

Pupils receiving timetabled EAL lessons in the Shell year usually opt to continue with these in Remove (4 periods per week, replacing a language or option block subject). Towards the end of Remove and in Fifth, for most pupils, focus turns to first language English preparation for the English language iGCSE. Pupils gain extra practice with the reading and writing skills required in the exam, including comprehension, analysis, and transactional and imaginative writing.

New pupils arriving in the Remove year are tested and results used to identify EAL pupils who may benefit from group or 1:1 support. Where information from parents and previous schools indicates that an EAL pupil would benefit from additional English lessons, they may join the timetabled lessons.

Subject teachers or HsMs may refer pupils to the EAL Coordinator or the SENCo at any time and pupils may refer themselves if they feel more support is necessary. It is usually expected that EAL students will go on to take both English Language and Literature iGCSE in Fifth with the rest of their year group.

EAL PROVISION 16+

Pupils entering the Sixth form are expected to have a sufficient level of English to access all parts of their A Level course. A very few pupils may be referred for extra English support at this stage, which will happen during free periods or outside lesson times, usually 1:1 in the Learning Enhancement Department.

Once pupils are aware of the English Language requirements of their chosen university courses, they may need support in researching and preparing for the IELTS examination. IELTS courses are run by specialist teachers in the EAL department in the autumn and lent terms, and there is a weekly IELTS clinic for further advice and resources. The department also runs grammar and vocabulary courses from time to time, which are open to all international pupils.