

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Bonus Pastor Catholic College

Mission Statement:

Bonus Pastor recognises that students who have English as an Additional Language may require careful consideration of their individual needs depending on their level of English proficiency. The School is committed to ensuring that students who are learning through the medium of English as an Additional Language are able to access the curriculum with confidence in order to achieve positive learning outcomes.

Introduction

The department aims to raise awareness of the needs of EAL students requiring additional support in order to be able to access the learning by supporting the planning, organisation, teaching and assessment procedures; as well as the use of resources and strategies. It is recognised that a number of EAL students are bilingual and their additional language presents no barrier to their academic progress but is a valuable attribute.

It is the policy of this school that EAL students who face exceptional circumstances, which may affect their ability to access the curriculum, will be dealt with on an individual basis in consultation with the SENDCo, Head of Year, Head of House, and the Headteacher. Parents/Carers are entitled to know when their son/daughter is experiencing learning challenges, to know what provision is offered by the school and to know how they can be involved in discussions to form a partnership to provide effective support.

EAL Provision

All staff are responsible for supporting EAL students in their learning within the classroom setting. Strategies may be sought in consultation with the EAL coordinator. Names of EAL students will be recorded on an EAL register, which will be shared confidentially with all staff, once data has been collected from Parents/Carers, Primary School Data, and/or the Bonus Pastor Admissions form.

In addition, the EAL coordinator may enter students to sit their home language at GCSE when possible and with the permission of the students and their parents/carers. This is subject to them being fluent orally and able to write coherently in their home language. The school operates a 'one entry only' policy per student during their time at the college, this is to ensure students, parents/carers are committed to making the most of this opportunity and to avoid excessive charges to the school's exam department.

Implementation

Students are not, generally, withdrawn from lessons to receive EAL support unless they are newly arrived and/or are facing severe difficulties in accessing the learning due to a low proficiency in English. At Bonus Pastor we believe that we are all *teachers of language* and

therefore all members teaching and support staff should take action to help EAL students by various means:

- Making lessons as comprehensible as possible through the use of visuals. This may include gestures, pictures, charts, graphs, maps, graphic organizers etc.
- Ensuring that vocabulary work covers the technical as well as the everyday meaning of key words e.g. metaphors and idioms; also mathematical symbols can vary across countries and may need explicit explanation.
- Providing a range of learning experiences (group work, activity based projects, etc.) and ensuring that there are effective opportunities for talking to support writing.
- Modelling and explaining how speaking and writing in English are structured for different purposes across a range of subjects
- If required, students will have an opportunity to transfer their knowledge, skills, and understanding of one language into another in order to make use of a students' first language and their unique background knowledge and experiences.

Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluation

Individual subject teachers undertake monitoring of student performance in line with department and school marking and assessment policy. Members of staff concerned with EAL student(s) presenting difficulties or underachievement liaise with the EAL coordinator by submitting a referral form. It is recognised that teaching children who do not have a good command of English presents classroom teachers with an additional challenge. Advice and support is available from the EAL Co-ordinator with regards to provisions which can be implemented in the classroom.