

ENGLISH as an ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE “EAL” POLICY

Purpose

Wingate is proud to serve a large population of students from different national, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. We continuously strive to respect, value, and celebrate our diversity.

While the language of communication and instruction is primarily in English, many of our students come from a variety of linguistic backgrounds. It is crucial that many non-native English speakers acquire the level of English needed to communicate effectively and successfully in social and academic situations to allow their academic progress through Wingate School. For the students who are developing English Language proficiency, we provide support in a variety of methods or offer places on our English Development Programme to raise their level of English prior to joining mainstream classes.

School Responsibilities:

As Wingate is a 'Through School' for students aged 3 to 18, each part of the school adopts its own procedures to support EAL learners but the overriding principles are the same across the school:

- All teaching is done in English (except Spanish and French lessons)
- Students are encouraged to speak only English both in and out of lessons
- Teachers will differentiate work for EAL learners where necessary
- Additional staff are allocated to support EAL learners but the cost of this support is passed onto parents
- In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), currently we do not offer in class support but parents will be advised that private lessons may be required which is the parent's responsibility to arrange and pay for
- Extra Activities

Parental Responsibilities:

All students undergo an interview prior to entry to Wingate School, this is primarily to assess their level of English. Parents must understand we **teach IN English**, we do not teach English - other than in English lessons or the English Development Centre. Once they have joined Wingate School, after formal assessment, if a student's level of English is considered below that required to make sufficient academic progress extra private 1-to-1 English lessons will be advised out of school and this extra cost met by the parents, or a place will be offered in the EDP.

Parents can also support their child's learning of English by:

- Encouraging your child to listen to spoken English music, tv and movies
- Use online English Learning Support sites such as BBC Bitesize
- Encouraging your child to read texts in written English
- Encouraging your child to take part in various Extracurricular activities in English

Additionally:

- Should parents be invited to a meeting in school, it is their responsibility to provide an interpreter

Should parents not undertake the advice given and the child is reassessed showing little or no improvement in their level of English, Wingate School reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in school as per the School Terms & Conditions.

Parents should also be aware that should their child make insufficient progress with their level of English, even with extra support, they will be advised that Wingate School is not the right place for their child's educational (and almost certainly emotional) development and progress, and asked to leave. However, parents should be reassured that this decision is never made lightly and only after considerable effort and communication with parents.

Students Responsibilities:

As with all learning students are expected to:

- Demonstrate a positive commitment independently to their own English development and learning utilising the advice above
- Make positive contributions to their lessons in English (though we accept this may take some time initially)
- Take responsibility and accountability for their spoken and written English, avoiding where possible their 'native language' (though we accept this may take some time initially)

Mr M Howells
Head of Wingate School

Date of review: August 2024