



English as an Additional Language Policy

This policy applies to:

Whole College (including EYFS)

Monitoring by:

Academic Management Team

Person responsible for this policy:

Head of EAL

Review dates:

Last Review – September 2026

Next Review – September 2027

Ardingly is a forward-thinking school in a traditional setting. Our mission is for every child to lead enjoyable and fulfilling lives; to make the most of their talents at school and be ready for the world beyond.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To set out the rationale and methodology for EAL support at Ardingly College.

To cope with the academic and social demands of the College, students must have reached a level of fluency in English sufficient to allow them to cope with the demands of curricular and non-curricular activities. We may recommend that some children, whose first language at home is not English or who are exposed to a significant level of a language other than English (LOTE), receive tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL).

POLICY AIMS

1. To identify students who have EAL requirements.
2. To ensure appropriate support is provided for students who have EAL requirements, enabling access to a broad and balanced education in which they can participate fully with peers.
3. To promote the individual's self-esteem and thereby promote academic potential and independent learning.
4. To monitor those students who have EAL requirements through target setting, evaluation and discussion with teaching and pastoral staff.
5. To ensure that less favourable treatment does not occur, and that the College offers equality of opportunity for all applicants and students, including examination access (where applicable).

ADMISSIONS

Ardingly College is an academically selective school and welcomes all children who can make the most of the opportunities that are offered and can flourish in the caring environment of the school. Treating every child as an individual is important to us, and we welcome students who have EAL requirements, provided that they can access our broad and balanced curriculum with limited support and that the EAL Department can provide them with the further specialist teaching that they require.

We advise parents of children who have EAL requirements to discuss their child's needs with the school before they sit our entrance examination so that we can make adequate provision for them. Parents should provide a copy of appropriate documentation from their prior school(s) to support any request for extra time and / or use of a dictionary. We will discuss thoroughly with parents the adjustments to the curriculum that can reasonably be made for their child once they have accepted the offer of a place and before they become a student at the school.

On Entry

Each student who has English as an Additional Language will be assessed to determine the level of support required. In the Prep School, this assessment will be undertaken by the class teacher in liaison with the Assistant Director of Learning Support. If appropriate, adjustments will be made to the student's curriculum including the provision of 1-1 or small group lessons.

Our EAL Department is staffed by fully qualified specialists who can provide class teaching for students with English as an Additional Language.

1. In the Prep School, for the most part, language acquisition is by immersion; however, EAL support will be provided (individually or in small groups), where deemed necessary.
2. In Years 7 to 11, students are given small group or individual support to aid progress in their wider school subjects.
3. Sixth Form students can be prepared for IELTS or equivalent University entrance requirements, if required.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Ardingly College has established a professionally staffed EAL Department. Its aim, throughout the whole school, is to support those students for whom English is an Additional Language, working in consultation with parents or guardians, tutors, and teachers. It offers specialist small group lessons and help with study skills. It is also responsible for determining and organising appropriate access arrangements for both internal and external examinations, such as extra time and / or the use of a dictionary.

While the College provides support and specialist teaching to students who have English as an Additional Language, Ardingly College is not staffed to support children who are not relatively fluent English speakers. However, all teachers are expected to support the learning of EAL students in their own subject areas. The College reserves the right not to admit students whose needs it cannot meet after reasonable adjustments have been considered. The Head's decision will be final in all cases.

The Department believes that close liaison between student, parents or guardians, pastoral and teaching staff is essential in order that the College:

1. provides a stimulating, reassuring and stable environment where the student can gain full and equal access to the curriculum and all aspects of school life.
2. caters for the specific needs of each individual student.

The provision of extra specialist tuition may be provided at an extra cost to parents.

EAL IN EYFS AND KS1

The principles and practices of the policy above will apply in these year groups; however, due to the early age of the children the support given will be adapted to ensure it is appropriate to their age and ability.

Initially the aim will be to encourage language development by immersion in the daily routines and language of the school. One to one support will be given, as needed, to develop vocabulary and maintain confidence. The teacher and Learning Support team will carefully monitor the child's progress.

Should a child not be making the progress expected or require additional support, advice will be sought from the EAL Department in liaison with the Assistant Director of Learning Support.

The class teacher will also liaise with the school librarian to ensure there is an appropriate supply of first language and dual language books to support the child's learning.