SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL
SINCE 1576

EAL Policy

(Prep School and Senior School)

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This Policy applies to Sutton Valence School (including, as the context requires, the Nursery, the Prep School and the Senior School).

Relevant to ISI regulatory requirements, Part 6, §24 (3) (6)

Introduction

Sutton Valence School is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and supported. A small proportion of our pupils speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), and their presence enriches the school community by broadening perspectives on languages, cultures and traditions. This policy outlines how we identify, support and monitor pupils with EAL to ensure they achieve their full academic potential while integrating within the school community.

Definition of EAL

EAL refers to pupils exposed to a language other than English at home. This includes:

- Pupils new to or with developing competency in English;
- Bilingual or multilingual pupils;
- Any pupil whose parent or carer speaks another language at home.

Aims

Our aims are as follows:

- to ensure that pupils with EAL are equipped with the language skills needed to enrich their current and future lives;
- to provide flexible teaching, support, encouragement and affirmation tailored to individual needs;
- to help pupils with EAL to integrate into the School community;
- to help pupils with EAL, as required, with the language demands of their work in different subjects;
- to help pupils understand varying degrees of academic language as well as informal language to ensure success in examinations and in their social lives; and
- in the Senior School only, to prepare pupils with EAL for the CIE IGCSE in ESL (usually taken in the Fifth Form or Lower Sixth) and as required for other examinations such as the IELTS, Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) and/or Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE).

Admission

Applicants with EAL are subject to the same admissions procedures as other applicants in principle although there may be additional English assessments if appropriate. Parents or carers are asked to fill in a form stating any language(s) that may be spoken at home, other than English. This policy supports Sutton Valence School in meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. See our Admissions Policy for further details.

At the Prep School, it is recognised that younger pupils generally acquire age-appropriate English language skills more rapidly. Therefore, we may consider admitting pupils whose English proficiency is still in early stages.

All applications from pupils with EAL are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual child's circumstances and the School's capacity to provide appropriate support.

This approach ensures that Sutton Valence School continues to meet its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 while maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning.

Identification and Assessment

Initial identification occurs through parental forms, entrance assessments and staff observations.
In the Prep School, Pupils with EAL are assigned a stage (A-E) by the School based on their English proficiency:

- A: New to English
- B: Early Acquisition
- C: Developing Competency
- D: Competent
- E: Fluent
- N: Not Assessed

At the Senior School, pupils are assessed using Password English. Password English Language Tests are online tests taken by EAL pupils to assess their English level. It is divided into two parts: Knowledge and Writing. The scores align with the levels in the CEFR and also IELTS. For example, a pupil achieving a grade 6.0 would be classed as a good user (B2 on the Common European Framework).

Provision and Teaching

We believe that all teachers are responsible for the language development of pupils with EAL using Quality First Teaching (QFT) strategies. Support for English language development should be positive, and we make sure that the pupil's home language is also valued. On occasions, some children might need additional specialist support.

This is what support might look like for pupils with EAL:

<u>In-Class Support</u>

- Use of clear, consistent routines.
- Use of visual aids, written cues and instructions, as well as multi-sensory teaching methods.
- Repetition of instructions and key points frequently, ideally verbally and in writing.
- Provisions of opportunities for peer discussions before whole-class feedback.
- Provision of constructive feedback, focusing on key language errors rather than all mistakes.
- Key vocabulary and concepts explicitly taught and reinforced. They might also be pre-taught.
- Encouragement and instruction in how to use a bilingual dictionary.

Specialist Support

- Flexible individual or small-group intervention work (available if and when needed).
- Additional resources, such as bilingual dictionaries and language apps.
- Specialist teaching for exam preparation, including IGCSE and IELTS (Senior School only).

Examinations – Senior School

IGCSE

The Cambridge (CIE) IGCSE in ESL(0991) is a valuable qualification for the pupils to take away with them. Leavers of 16 or over who are present in the Summer Term are entered for it, unless they already have a good grade in it. The syllabus aims to develop pupils' communication skills, provide a good basis for future studies or work, develop their awareness of language and language-learning skills and promote pupils' personal development.

IELTS

IELTS Academic is a crucial qualification for most Sutton Valence School pupils who plan to attend British universities. It is also recognised for many courses around the world. The candidates are graded in 'bands', of which number nine is the highest and equivalent to native speaker level. Universities typically demand IELTS bands of around seven ('good user'). Such results can be difficult to achieve, particularly for those with non-European mother tongues. The examination can be taken at any time and any number of times. It is offered almost weekly each year. Note that the qualification is intended only for university entry and expires after two years.

Cambridge First Certificate Examination (FCE)

The Cambridge First Certificate Examination (FCE) is a very popular examination, particularly for those pupils who join the school for one or two terms. It demonstrates that learners have the ability to communicate effectively face-to-face, express opinions and present arguments. Furthermore, they are also able to write clear, detailed English, expressing opinions and explaining the advantages and disadvantages of different points of view. The pupils usually sit this examination in the Michaelmas Term.

Enrichment

A variety of additional events take place throughout the year to engage our community, many of which relate to celebrating diversity in different forms. Many of these are available to all within our community so we all gain knowledge which might help to support our EAL pupils. Others are aimed at celebrating the diversity of our school community such as whole school assemblies and celebration events across year groups such as (but not limited to) European Day of Languages and Boarders' Themed Food Nights.