

Park School E.A.L. Policy

The Park School has around 25 overseas students, the majority of whom come from Hong Kong. Most of these students live in the boarding house but some live with English families close to the school.

E.A.L. policy relates to

1. the teaching methodology in improving classroom language skills and social skills outside the classroom.
2. the nature of the cross curricular support.
3. providing opportunities for students to become increasingly aware of the home culture.

The overriding approach to language teaching is Krashen's Monitor Theory of Language Learning where students are exposed to spoken or written text inputs of gradually increasing difficulty from which an integrated approach can be adopted to developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills as well as improving grammatical awareness.

Specific targets

- To develop speaking and listening skills so that students can take a full part in their EAL lessons as well as lessons in other subjects, both in understanding and communicating ideas.
- To develop reading and writing skills to support the work being done in E.A.L. and mainstream classes. This is especially important for Geography and Science GCSE work.
- To raise grammatical self-awareness.
- To raise vocabulary levels across the curriculum.
- To encourage students to make use of the E.A.L. library and the main school library.
- To help with coursework and other class assignments where linguistic deficits have limited understanding. Also to help students synthesise and adapt website material for the particular requirements of the coursework topic.
- To prepare students for national ESOL exams: PET, IGCSE, IELTS.
- To make students more fully aware of what is available linguistically on various educational websites.
- To encourage students to participate fully in the life of the school: the choir, the enterprise group, sport etc.
- To foster an awareness of English culture in its various manifestations.

Resource materials

We use two specific sets of textbooks supplemented by up-to-date website material (including the BBC). This combination allows for the sequencing of material as well as the enrichment of authentic texts.

Teaching Practice

The department welcomes trainee teachers. Rebecca Ito completed her ESOL teaching practice at the school in the winter term 2009.

Cross Curricular Support

The department offers a considerable amount of cross-curricular support both in Science and Geography, especially currently with the Year 10s.

The ESOL Report Card

The report card is a simple means for colleagues to flag up the linguistic weaknesses of the overseas students in a way that the department can respond to. It also enables progress to be monitored. It can also be used to update the vocabulary lists. The report cards are kept on the mantelpiece in the staff room.

Exams

The Practical English Test (PET) taken at Sherborne in the summer
IGCSE English as a Second Language (L2)

IELTS – exam taken at Bath

Bright students are offered the possibility of taking the IELTS exam at the end of Year 12 and then doing the Cambridge Proficiency at the end of Year 13. Most students take the exam at the end of Year 13. Students may also take the IELTS exam in their home country.

Extra Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to play a full role in school life, in school sports (especially squash), in drama, in public speaking evenings (held annually for invited schools), taking part in school assemblies etc. Such participation enables students to mature as individuals, heightens their cultural awareness and gives them added opportunity to improve their spoken English.

A trip to the houses of parliament is organised every three years and the overseas students are especially encouraged to go. Our local M.P. also visits the school every two years to speak to the sixth form including the overseas students. Efforts are also made to make the English students

aware of the value of the presence of overseas students in the school especially over the festival of Chinese New Year.

Approved by the Governing Body - 8th June 2010