

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) POLICY

Introduction and overview

Christ's Hospital has opened its doors to overseas pupils and aims to provide a full school experience, inclusion in all aspects of School life and full access to the School curriculum.

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Christ's Hospital, pupils benefit from being fluent English speakers. We endeavour to accept international pupils whose language skills allow them to access the curriculum, developing fluency as they progress through the School.

Our ESL department works in very close liaison with our TLSS department in order to provide additional support to our non-native English speakers as required. We are under the umbrella of TLSS within the School.

English tuition is available at no additional cost to ESL pupils. These lessons are arranged by year groups and as appropriate to the level of English fluency of the pupils, both on arrival and as they progress through the School.

Pupils in the LE, UF and GE are specifically timetabled to be taught ESL rather than the mainstream first language English classes. The Assistant Head, Academic, Head of TLSS and Head of English may be consulted if a pupil is assessed and it is decided that they could access the literature and language combined classes.

Pupils in Second and Third Form, as well as those studying in the sixth form whose language needs are greatest, have lessons arranged for them when their timetables allow. Lessons are not automatically provided. These classes may be as an individual or in groups most appropriate for their language needs.

Aims

The ESL departmental aims are:

- to identify those pupils who have ESL needs;
- as far as is practicable, to ensure appropriate support is provided for those pupils who have ESL needs, enabling access to a broad and balanced education in which he/she can participate fully with peers;
- to promote the individual's self esteem in order to promote academic potential and independent learning;
- to acknowledge fully the importance of the parents' role in supporting their children's education;
- to monitor those pupils who have ESL needs; and
- to ensure that less favourable treatment does not occur and that Christ's Hospital offers equality of opportunity for all of its applicants and pupils.

Admissions and ESL

Christ's Hospital is an academically selective school and welcomes 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, and we welcome pupils who have ESL needs, provided that they can access our broad and

balanced curriculum with our current levels of provision and that the ESL Department can provide them with the further specialist teaching that they require.

We advise parents of children who have ESL requirements to discuss their child's needs, future academic expectations and subject choices with the School before he or she sits our entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. 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 he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

Christ's Hospital reserves the right not to admit pupils whose needs it cannot meet after reasonable adjustments have been considered. The Head Teacher's decision will be final in all cases.

Upon entry

Each pupil who has English as a second language will be assessed to determine the level of support required. If appropriate and where possible, adjustments will be made to the pupil's curriculum to include group ESL lessons.

Our ESL Department is staffed by two fully qualified specialists who are able to provide class teaching and 1:1 sessions for pupils with English as a second language. Support for general subjects is offered in "drop-in" times when pupils can request help with their English and general written assignments.

- Junior lessons will be aimed at providing a solid foundation in English language, supporting mainstream English classes, with a view to taking IGCSE ESL in UF or GE, as appropriate. When English teachers feel that the demands of the GCSE mainstream English examination are too great it may be recommended that the pupil focuses on ESL lessons and the ESL examination only.
- Deputy Grecians and Grecians are prepared for the IELTS examinations in support of university applications. The examination fee will be met by parents. (The IELTS may be selected as an optional extra and examination preparation given during activity sessions rather than during the academic timetable.)

Monitoring and review

The ESL Department aims to support those pupils for whom English is an additional or second language, working in consultation with house parents, parents or guardians, tutors and teachers. Through ESL classes, it offers specialist small group lessons and help with study skills.

While Christ's Hospital provides support and specialist teaching to pupils who have English as a second or additional language, all teachers are expected to support the learning of ESL pupils in their own subject areas.

The Department believes that close liaison between pupils, parents or guardians, pastoral and teaching staff is essential in order that the School provides a stimulating, reassuring and stable environment where the pupil can gain full and equal access to the curriculum and all aspects of School life.

Graduated approach

ESL support at CH should arise from a four part cycle, known as the graduated approach, through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised, leading to a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. The four stages of the cycle are Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

There are four successive cycles that we will follow starting at whole-School level. Individualised assessment leads to a growing understanding of the barriers to and gaps in the pupil's learning. Initial assessment upon entry to CH will determine the pupil's stage at the beginning of the year.

Stage 1

Full integration into whole School curriculum, placement within English sets as appropriate. In class, the emphasis is on personalised learning and high quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils. We set high expectations for everyone and the progress of all pupils is monitored carefully. Pupils will be able to self-refer and access ESL drop-ins. Subject teachers may also recommend additional support.

Stage 2

If the initial assessment indicates the need for language support, pupils will be placed on the monitoring list and assigned an ESL key worker. At this stage pupils may be invited to attend ESL sessions or drop-ins to support their learning. The key worker will monitor progress and liaise with teachers and pupils directly as necessary.

Stage 3

If the initial assessment indicates a high priority for language support individual or small group lessons will be put in place by the ESL key worker. Pupils will be contacted directly by the key worker and given responsibility to attend appointments and communicate with their teacher. House parents will also be copied into this communication. Close liaison with subject teachers and monitoring of grades will begin at this stage. Failure to respond will lead to stage 4.

Communication

- ESL staff can be contacted by phone, in person or by email: ESL@christs-hospital.org.uk
- Parents can request a meeting with ESL staff to discuss pupils at a mutually convenient time.
- Pupils will be informed of appointments via email; HPs and tutors will be copied into the email.
- Pupils will be given regular email reminders. There will be 3 reminders at weekly or shorter intervals.
- If a pupil fails respond to an appointment after three attempts, an email will be sent to HPs, to the Assistant Head Academic, tutors and parents to inform them of a failure to attend. Pupils will at this point be moved to the bottom of the priority list to allow more willing applicants access to ESL services.
- Senior pupils will be expected to be more proactive in communicating information to parents and carers.

Owner: LLW

Author: CMC / DAF

Date of last review: March 2021

Date of next review: March 2023