

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 Learning Support department in order to provide additional support to our non-native English speakers as required. We are under the umbrella of Learning Support within the school.

English tuition is available free-of-additional-charge for ESL students. 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 Learning Support and Head of English may be consulted if a pupil is assessed and it is decided that they are able to access the literature and language combined classes.

Pupils in 2nd and 3rd Form, as well as those studying in the 6th 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 department aims are:

- To identify those pupils who have ESL needs.
- As far practicable, to ensure appropriate support is provided for those students 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 students who are English language learners
- 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 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, and we

welcome students who are ESL learners, 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 they sit our entrance exam 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 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 students with English as a second language. Support for general subjects is offered in "drop-in" times when students can request help with their English and general written assignments.

- Junior lessons will be aimed at providing a solid foundation of 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 student focuses on ESL lessons and the ESL examination only.
- Deputy Grecians and Grecians are prepared for the IELTS examinations in support for 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 students 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 Language, all teachers are expected to support the learning of ESL students 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 and Stages of ESL

ESL support at CH follows a 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 support the pupil needs to make progress and secure good outcomes. As general guidance to the graduated approach, an Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle is followed to ensure pupils are accessing the support they need, either from the department or from their usual mainstream subject teachers.

There are three stages to support for ESL learners:

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, adapted for individual students. We set high expectations for everyone and the progress of all students 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 additional language support, pupils will be placed on the monitoring list and assigned an ESL teacher. At this stage pupils may be advised to attend ESL sessions or drop-ins to support their learning. The ESL teacher 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 teacher. Pupils will be contacted directly by the key worker and given responsibility to attend appointments and communicate with their teacher. Houseparents will also be copied into this communication. Close liaison with subject teachers and monitoring of grades will begin at this stage.

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 the school email system, Houseparents 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 3 attempts, an email will be sent to Houseparent, Assistant Head Academic, Tutor and Parent 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 students will be expected to be more proactive in communicating information to parents and carers.

Author: LSW

Date of last review: April 2023

Date of next review: April 2025