

English as an Additional Language

Aims

The EAL Department is part of the Special Educational Needs Department.

EAL support is offered in order to provide children from overseas with the necessary language skills to function and integrate in our school and culture and to approach their studies and life with confidence at Sherborne Prep School and beyond.

Furthermore, EAL lessons prepare pupils for external examinations so they obtain qualifications which are recognised and respected worldwide – if this is requested.

Learning English offers many opportunities to get to know the English culture and to compare and celebrate different cultures. In 2008-2009 we organised an international assembly, where students from abroad were able to introduce their countries (architecture) to the whole school community. We also went to the Theatre to see "The Snowman" and on another occasion to see "Toad of Toad Hall". A further outing was to the 'Pack Monday Fair', the local annual fair around Michaelmas. Chinese New Year was celebrated with a quiz (and prizes) for the whole school and a Chinese dinner. The first of May was mentioned as an important national day in Russia. Some older students have been invited to take part in the International Market at Sherborne School in June, a further opportunity for the foreign students to present their countries to the wider community.

It is planned to hold an international evening each term:

Michaelmas Term: Spanish Evening

Lent Term : Chinese Evening (New Year)

Trinity Term: Russian Evening

These are the main nationalities of our foreign students at present.

The EAL staff have a pastoral role for their students, they will be aware of and take an interest in their well-being and be their unofficial personal tutor.

Staffing and accommodation:

Mrs Ruth Rogerson and Mrs Clare Germaine are the school's EAL teachers.

Mrs Rogerson is responsible for the coordination of the department. She holds a teacher qualification for German, English and French and additional arts subjects from Zurich University and a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency English (A).

Mrs Germaine has a degree in English and Art History and Theory from the University of Sydney, a Masters of Arts Administration from the University of New South Wales and a Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults.

Both teachers work part-time, teaching individuals, pairs or small groups throughout the school.

There is a small but adequate EAL room, opposite the Lecture room. If both teachers are working at the same time, the Meeting Room adjacent to the Library is used to teach EAL.

Procedure

Pupils entering the school are informally assessed on their language skills and then their teacher puts together an appropriate learning programme. Class- and subject teachers are consulted about specific language needs.

Timetabling

In the Junior Department, children tend to come out of lessons on a rota basis in order to attend EAL lessons.

In the Senior Department, students mostly attend EAL lessons out of lesson time or at least out of core curriculum subject time.

EAL lessons are billed separately.