

Perrott Hill
EAL with International Pupil Support Policy
(English as an Additional Language)



This policy is written with the inclusion of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the following outcomes of Helping Children Achieve More:

- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution

Introduction

Perrott Hill is committed to the development of each individual pupil. International pupils enrich our school community through the diversity of culture and experience that they bring. In providing for international pupils for whom English is an additional language, the school has to balance the needs of the individual against those of the whole community. International pupils who attend the school will need to be able to access the academic curriculum and work independently; some of these pupils will receive extra support (additional provision is detailed in the EAL with International Pupil Support Department Handbook).

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that international pupils and prospective international pupils are not treated less favourably than others. It sets out the steps that the school takes to ensure that they receive appropriate support to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their education here at Perrott Hill.

Admissions Standards

International pupils for whom English is an additional language will be assessed by the Head of EAL or the Headmaster prior to admission. Applicants must supply, amongst other information, a report from their present school, details of both their previous and future education, a questionnaire completed by the parents and a questionnaire completed by the pupil.

Admission is based on our expectation that pupils should be capable of managing the prescribed syllabus if they study here at Perrott Hill.

Specific Aims for International Students

In addition to the school's aims for all its pupils, we set out to create an environment in which our international pupils may:

- Improve their English language in order to enable them to make progress in their other subjects

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- Gain an internationally recognised English Language qualification where appropriate
- Gain an understanding of English culture and heritage.

Provision for International Pupils

Whilst Perrott Hill remains a British school, we acknowledge that for international pupils to gain the very best from the opportunities the school offers, we must ensure these opportunities are easily available to international pupils.

International Pupil Induction

During the holidays prior to the pupils arriving in England, the House Parents in liaison with the Admissions Secretary send the families various booklets including the A-Z of Boarding, UK Guardians and EAL. An important element in helping the pupils feel comfortable about the move ahead is the brief but vital Welcome Guide to Boarding written as appropriate in their native language by former international boarders.

International pupils who are new to the school are invited to arrive at the school the day before term begins. This enables them to meet some of their teachers, the boarding house staff and matron and to be shown around the school. During the course of the term, specifically assigned mentors and Boarding Captains will help them to orientate themselves around the school and grounds. The school rules are explained and the fire drill is walked through, so that all pupils know what is expected of them. Uniform will also be fitted and named. There is an on-going boarding programme for part-time and full-time boarders which will ensure that the pupils experience a wide range of British culture and heritage. This will be complemented by learning in EAL, year group outings and trips throughout the year.

English Language Assessment

All international pupils will receive EAL support as their need dictates. The frequency of this help is decided by the Head of EAL in conjunction with the Academic Deputy Head, the relevant Heads of Departments and subject teachers. On-going teacher assessment will dictate any changes in provision.

EAL Teaching

The EAL teacher provides specific EAL lessons for international pupils for whom English is an additional language. Classes are small (typically no more than 4 students) and some sessions may involve one-to-one tuition. There is a dedicated EAL tutor room which is both inviting and welcoming to all international pupils, regardless of whether they have EAL lessons or not.

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The curriculum for the international pupils aims:

- To provide experience of UK teaching styles and classroom dynamics
- To enhance their English skills
- To develop relevant academic vocabulary
- To attain Cambridge ESOL levels, as and when appropriate
- To enhance international understanding, intercultural links and experience first-hand aspects of British life, culture and customs
- To instil confidence
- To have, above all, an enjoyable experience

EAL Support in Lessons

Non-specialist teachers will provide for international pupils in their teaching, either by use of differentiated material, glossaries of technical words or individual attention. The EAL teacher may offer in-class support as and when needed or requested.

In the Montessori Foundation Stage, children have the opportunity to play in their home languages during the course of the week with support from specialist language teachers.

EAL Support for Additional Work

All pupils may ask for support with any additional work from the staff on duty in the Boarding Houses. The staff are trained teachers who will know the pupils well and also be familiar with the curriculum.

Extra-curricular Opportunities

We are an English country preparatory school and, as such, offer many English sports such as rugby, cricket, netball, tennis and rounders. We recognise that many international pupils may not have played these sports and may have different interests. However, in order to meet our aim of exposing the international pupils to British culture and heritage, we do ask them to participate fully in our extra-curricular programme.

The Head Chef prepares a themed lunch at least once per term so that the international pupils can enjoy 'food from home' as well as food from other cultures.

Pupils also have the opportunity to comment on meals via the children's Food Committee, chaired by the Headmaster's wife and the Head Chef.

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Cultural Opportunities

Overseas full boarders are regularly invited to spend a weekend with a school friend. For exeat weekends the Full Boarders' parents will arrange for their child to spend the weekend with the designated England based guardian. However, if English pupils invite the full boarders to their homes, the Head of Boarding will ensure that both sets of parents have exchanged contact details and that satisfactory arrangements have been made. Subsequently, during EAL lessons the Full Boarders write 'thank you' letters which are then sent to their hosts.

Parents' visits and international communications

Parents and Guardians of international pupils are able to visit the school at any stage and are made most welcome. If sufficient notice is given, they are able to meet and talk to their child's teachers when they visit. They are also most welcome to attend the relevant parent-teacher consultations.

The Head of EAL, Form Tutors, House Parents and Admissions Secretary, in particular, are in regular contact with the parents of the international pupils. This communication can reassure both parents and children. The policy of pupils not contacting home in the first week may appear harsh but it is evident that it does help the children to integrate fully into the life of the school. Parents are amenable with this arrangement. The Headmaster and House Parents are in regular contact with the parents in these first few days.

After the first week when telephone calls are restricted, international pupils call home at least twice a week (Sunday for a long call, midweek for a midweek chat) and often more frequently. Perrott Hill email accounts are created for international boarders to use freely during evenings in the boarding houses.

The Future

While it is recognised that the vast majority of international pupils will wish to return home at (or before) the end of Year 8, some will wish to transfer to a British senior independent school. Our curriculum is designed to ease this transfer provided that the pupil has the ability to succeed in the Common Entrance Examinations. A decision about this will need to be made at the latest by the end of December of Year 8 in order for provision to be put in place for examinations the following June. The Headmaster and the Academic Deputy Head, in liaison with the Head of EAL, will give parents informed guidance regarding an appropriate UK senior school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Boarding Handbook and the EAL with International Pupil Support Department Handbook.