

English as an Additional Language Policy

Last Review: June 2026

Next review: June 2029

Committee: Inclusion

Principles, values and entitlements

JCoSS is an inclusive community that values all its students, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or background. A core principle of the school is to celebrate practices and beliefs from across the Jewish community and beyond.

English as an additional language: some key principles

All EAL students are different and have individual needs depending on their previous experiences. Students' needs are **linguistic**; EAL is **not synonymous** with SEN. Many students do not need to learn English as a new language, it is simply that it is not their FIRST language.

People learn a new language most easily when:

- they are in a positive, secure and helpful environment
- they are interacting with others
- the language items they are expected to use are clear and focused
- new language items are presented to them in a meaningful context
- they hear the new language items repeated several times
- they have the opportunity to repeat and use the new items themselves
- every attempt at speaking is praised
- the rules of the language are modelled naturally
- there are interesting things and events that stimulate language
- gesture, body language and facial expression reinforce the spoken word

Students' academic proficiency in their first language makes an important contribution to academic success in the second language. Conversational ability will develop much more quickly than mastery of the language needed to succeed in the curriculum. It can (though it may not) take many years for EAL students to acquire academic English at the same level as their peers.

Responsibilities of the Teacher in charge of EAL.

- Maintaining an EAL register that is flexible, records first language and if a student has been in the UK less than 3 years
- Developing short-term induction programmes for EAL students who have little or no English
- Monitoring the progress of EAL students in statutory education, who are still acquiring English (three years or less in UK) and may be receiving EAL intervention. Heads of Year monitor entire EAL cohorts at whole school assessment points
- Co-ordinating a programme of support, tailored to the needs of individual students requiring intervention
- Mentoring of EAL students requiring academic or pastoral support
- Supporting mainstream teachers in the teaching of EAL students, including via the provision of Pen Portraits
- Advising LSAs on strategies to support the student where such support is available
- Delivering EAL training to new staff / trainee teachers within the JCoSS context
- Create and maintain an EAL resource library

- Conducting learning walks to understand the experience of EAL students acquiring English
- Maintaining the EAL staff room display, identifying students still acquiring English

Procedure for identifying EAL students and the need for EAL support

- Use Department of Education definition of EAL; 'A first language other than English should be recorded where a child was exposed to the language during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community. If a child was exposed to more than one language (which may include English) during early development the language other than English should be recorded, irrespective of the child's proficiency in English
- Analysis of information about the students from previous educational establishments
- All students, who have been in the UK under three years, to take the JCoSS literacy assessment
- To liaise with staff responsible for access arrangements, to ensure EAL students who qualify, receive the access arrangements they are entitled to and to communicate this to staff
- The EAL register to be available for scrutiny
- Parents of students identified for EAL literacy support to be notified of an offer of support
- Students to be placed in sessions according to need - to be scheduled on a withdrawal basis –up to twice a fortnight for KS3 and once a week at KS4 from Form Time
- Assessment of progress at the end of the programme by means of contrasting writing samples of "before" and "after" and/or English target progression and by using the British Council EAL resources

Approaches to ensure that JCoSS is an EAL-friendly school

- Visual clues provide initial help for students new to English.
- Routines and procedures can be quickly understood simply by looking and copying other students.
- Good speaking and listening are noticed and praised.
- Where possible students are grouped in a variety of ways during the school day so that they get the chance to work with many other students in the class at some point during the week.
- Parents feel they are partners in the education process.
- Dictionaries for appropriate languages are available in each faculty or students have been provided with a bilingual dictionary for use in all lessons. Students in the early stage of acquiring English have access to electronic bilingual dictionaries.