

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BAHRAIN



English and Additional Language (EAL) Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Policy Reference	BSB - EAL - 008
Date Adopted	June 2019
Last Review Date	August 2024
Next Scheduled Revision (yearly)	August 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Key elements in the BSB EAL policy
3. Assessment
4. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
5. Strategies for teachers
6. Learning Support and Able, Gifted and Talented Students
7. Parental/Community Involvement

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At BSB all students and staff must feel accepted and valued. For students learning English as an additional language (not the one they primarily use at home), it is important that we recognise and respect the role and importance of that primary language, while also enabling each pupil to use English as their main vehicle of learning at BSB.

1.2 This approach must be seen alongside the School's Equal Opportunities Policy and SENDA Policy.

1.3 This EAL policy aims to promote awareness of the School's obligations and to support all of the procedures to be considered in meeting the needs of students who have English as an additional language (EAL) and thereby help them to access education at BSB fully and to raise their achievement.

2.0 Key elements in the BSB EAL policy

2.1 EAL students are entitled to the full BSB programmes of study and all their teachers have a responsibility for enabling them to learn English as well as other subject content.

2.2 Effective learning requires attention to the language embodied in each curriculum area. Meanings and comprehension must not be assumed but must be made explicit.

2.3 Language is central to identity. Therefore, the primary languages of all students (and staff) should be recognised and valued. Students should not be discouraged from maintaining their primary language as long as this is not to the exclusion of others or when used in appropriate lessons (languages, Islam, citizenship).

2.4 Although many students will acquire the ability to communicate on a daily basis in English quite quickly, the level of language needed for academic study is much more complex and can require continued support for a lengthy period.

2.5 Language develops best when used in purposeful contexts across the curriculum. When planning lessons the language needs of EAL students must be identified and included in planning.

3.0 Assessment

3.1 All EAL students are entitled to standard BSB assessments.

3.2 Progress in the learning of English should be regularly assessed and monitored. Assessment methods should be checked for cultural bias and action taken to remove any such bias.

3.3 Sensitive consideration must be given to the appropriateness of testing EAL students, particularly in the early stages of English acquisition.

3.4 Where appropriate, application will be made to Awarding Bodies for the use of dictionaries in examinations.

4.0 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Academic targets for EAL students must be appropriate, challenging and reviewed regularly.

4.2 Planning for EAL students will incorporate curricular and EAL specific objectives. HoDs must ensure that these approaches are regularly monitored; schemes of work must take account of the linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds of students and their families.

5.0 Strategies for teachers

5.1 Classroom activities should have clear learning objectives and use appropriate materials and support to enable students to participate fully in lessons.

5.2 Key language features of each curricular area, key vocabulary, uses of language, forms of text, should be identified.

5.3 Enhanced opportunities should be considered to provide for speaking and listening.

5.4 Additional visual support should be considered - posters, pictures, etc

5.5 Additional verbal support should be provided - repetition, peer support, etc

5.6 Use should be considered of collaborative activities that involve appropriate talk and which encourage participation.

5.7 Support should be provided for language and learning - writing frames, etc.

6.0 Learning Support and Able, Gifted and Talented Students

6.1 EAL students will not automatically receive help from the Learning Support/SENDA Departments but will have the same rights of access to it as other students should they need it.

6.2 Able, Gifted and Talented EAL students will have the same rights of access to such programmes or opportunities as other students.

6.3 EAL and SEN students will have the same rights of access to such programmes or opportunities as other students.

7.0 Parental/Community Involvement

7.1 Teachers and support staff will encourage parental and community involvement; this may take the form of:

7.1.1 providing a welcoming induction process for newly-arrived students and their families or carers.

7.1.2 using plain English and translators and interpreters, where appropriate and available and subject to appropriate checks, to ensure good spoken and written communications.

7.1.3 identifying the linguistic, cultural and religious background of students.

7.1.4 recognising and encouraging the use of the primary language, under appropriate conditions.

7.1.5 helping parents or carers to understand how they can support their children at home.