

Good English Language Support is crucial to the success of overseas students at Wells Cathedral School and we are able to offer a developed programme to all those students who we judge will benefit from it. The programme is based in the International Student Centre in the school, in the centre of the campus. Students identified as needing this English Language Support Programme will have access to the facilities offered in the International Student Centre, and will be taught by qualified EAL (English as an Additional Language) specialist teachers.

Programme

The programme includes:

- examination preparation classes.
- ongoing individual language support for all subjects within the curriculum.
- ‘Surgery’ and study skills sessions where students can ask for help with individual school assignments, or with any other aspect of school or life in Britain.
- help with the process of applying for university in the UK or elsewhere in liaison with Head of Sixth Form and tutors.
- Close liaison between key subject teachers and EAL teaching staff for the production of appropriate subject resources and EAL friendly strategies for both individual and groups of students.
- A Pre-sessional two-week extended induction programme for all new international pupils whereby they become familiar with systems and routines at Wells Cathedral School.
- **A one-year** English Language pre A-level programme in the Wells International Study Centre (WISC) as a foundation for study in mainstream sixth form.

Students are taught in preparation for the following examinations (as appropriate to their individual needs). The IELTS, CPE and CAE exams are recognised by British Universities as a clear indication of whether the student’s command of English is of an appropriate level to be accepted onto any course applied for.

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Y12/13	CAE	Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English
	IELTS	International English Language Testing System
	CPE	Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English
Y10/11	IGCSE	English as a Second Language
Y7-11	PET	Cambridge Preliminary English Test
	FCE	Cambridge First Certificate in English

Students are normally expected to have reached the level of IGCSE English as a Second Language Grade C or IELTS 5.5 before being accepted into the Sixth Form. The English level of pupils new to the school is assessed using the online Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT) and an informal interview process.

Younger students are given whatever support we consider necessary to bring them up to an appropriate level of English, and to enable them to follow the normal school curriculum. The EAL department also liaises regularly with subject teachers and tutors to ensure that any difficulties arising from limitations in the English Language are addressed quickly and effectively. Concerns or progress can be recorded via a google form, accessible to all school staff from a dropdown menu on the WSC bookmarks. Feedback from mainstream teaching staff is also requested at key points in the school year; after an initial 2 - 3 week settling in period, or internal examinations, for example. This monitoring process is ongoing for all students for whom English is not a first language.

regardless of whether they currently receive EAL instruction.

The number of hours per week of English tuition will vary, and depends very much on the individual student's requirements. If at any time a student needs extra help, provision will be made within the curriculum, where timetabling allows.

The school will take reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, to support their language development at home, and to ensure that they also have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language. Where appropriate, older students will be encouraged to develop their home language by working towards the GCSE or A-level in their home language, with some support from the languages faculty. In addition to this formal opportunity, the student led International Committee regularly organises cultural and language based events throughout the year to enable all students to gain a wider understanding of other languages and cultures. In recent times this has included students teaching introductory classes for other pupils in their native language as part of Languages Week, participation in assembly in the cathedral and the organisation of cultural events within school.

A charge is made for the English Support Programme.

Head of EAL

September 2018

Date of next review: September 2020