

EAL Policy

At Fairfield we aim to develop children's confidence, courtesy and self-worth, so that they will grow stronger, not only as individuals, but also as members of the Loughborough Schools' Foundation and the wider community. We welcome pupils from all social and ethnic backgrounds and with a wide range of language backgrounds.

We are an academically selective school providing a happy, safe and nurturing atmosphere, where purposeful and structured opportunities guide and encourage all of our pupils to succeed.

The major points of entry are at 3+ for Kindergarten, 4+ for Reception and then 7+, 8+, 9+ and 10+ for entry into years 3 to 6.

At 4+ new candidates undergo an informal assessment, which is not knowledge based and focuses on the child's potential. A number of activities are organised by the EYFS staff to ascertain the level of; memory skills, auditory skills, sequencing and social skills.

Children with EAL in our EYFS will have full opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in the English Language through play and interaction with others during day to day activities. Staff will communicate with parents regarding progress on a regular basis. In EYFS this is also delivered through Tapestry. Opportunities are given to share and use home languages through play and learning.

Opportunities for language development in EYFS:

- Meeting with Parents to gain survival words and phrases
- Involvement of Head of MFL
- Words are displayed in other languages and in the home corner
- Dual language books
- Social language groups available
- Visual timetable and cues in setting

At 7+ - 10+ all candidates complete a reasoning and numeracy test (short answers and problem solving). Children are also assessed in literacy, which involves writing and comprehension tasks. The comprehension element requires the candidate to read and write in English and to answer in structured sentences. Children may also take reading and spelling assessments.

Candidates are expected to achieve a satisfactory standard in these. The paper when marked may also be discussed with the Learning Support Co-ordinator and the Headmaster.

Pupils are accepted into the school on the grounds of their potential to do well in the system of education which we are able to provide. If it is judged that they will thrive in our academic community but require a little short term additional language support, this could be made available, but depending on the provision required there may be an additional charge to the educational fees paid for the academic education of the pupil. The language support lessons would occur during the school day, at a time that fits in with the class timetable. The pupil may also receive additional or small group literacy/numeracy support from the Learning Support Team if a need is identified. Regular reviews of progress will be made.

Celebration of foreign languages occurs from Kindergarten – Year 6 through weekly Modern Foreign Language lessons, competitions, visits and guest speakers including parents sharing their language and cultural knowledge.

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