



Downe House
Muscat

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Downe House Muscat aims to ensure that all English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners are fully integrated into the school community. We recognise that many students are learning in English as a second language and that their academic understanding may exceed their spoken or written English.

EAL support may be provided in class or through targeted withdrawal for specific language input, as appropriate. All academic and pastoral staff share responsibility for supporting EAL learners. Where a student requires additional support beyond what can be provided in class, supplementary EAL lessons may be offered. These lessons incur an additional cost and are designed to support long-term success, including access to iGCSE and A Level courses.

The purpose of the EAL policy is to ensure that students with EAL needs will:

- have access to the whole school curriculum and will be fully integrated into the school;
- be supported by the school to become effective, independent learners and thereby to achieve their maximum potential;
- have the necessary qualifications for higher education when they leave the School.

Admissions

We welcome students into all stages of the school whose first language is not English.

Students joining the school in KG to Grade 1 are not required to have prior experience of learning in English. At these ages, children acquire language quickly through play, interaction and classroom routines. Teachers provide a language-rich environment and structured support to help them understand instructions, develop vocabulary and express themselves confidently. The focus is on enabling every child to participate fully in lessons, develop communication skills, and build friendships within our English-speaking community.

Students joining the school in Grade 2 or above will be expected to have studied English and their level of understanding must enable them to follow lessons taught in English and to socialise, settle and make friends.

The admissions assessment includes an assessment of the child's level of English language proficiency.

Students may be required to participate in the School's EAL Additional Support programmes during their time at the School.

Admission to the School will include a condition to participate in additional EAL lessons as appropriate.

Please refer to the School's Admissions Policy for more details.

Provision

Students whose first language is not English receive in-class support appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The EAL programme offers both classroom support and, when appropriate, small-group sessions. All students' English proficiency is assessed on entry and monitored throughout the year.

For those in receipt of additional, paid for support, termly reports are sent home outlining progress and next steps.

Students with limited English may be withdrawn from lessons for targeted instruction. Additional EAL support carries an extra charge, as detailed in the Fees Policy.

Evaluation

Teaching is inclusive and adapted to meet individual language needs. Progress is tracked through ongoing assessment, and intervention plans are reviewed each term. Adjustments are made based on student outcomes and feedback to ensure effective, responsive provision.

Charging Policy for EAL

All EAL lessons are charged at an additional cost to parents at a group or individual rate as published in the School's Fee Policy.