

The EAL Centre at Haileybury Turnford

What We Offer

The EAL Centre works in our school to support, teach and monitor the progress and achievement of bilingual, refugee and newly immigrated students at Haileybury Turnford. These students are categorised as English as an Additional Language (EAL) and often have varying levels of either home language or English language fluency.

Of the present students and staff, about 14% are bilingual, that is, they speak, read and write at least one other language. Haileybury Turnford believes that home languages are an important skill to support and develop. Opportunities are being developed for the next academic year which include the bilingual mentoring of new students by older students, home language GCSEs and community language events. Parents can be assured that the languages spoken at home are just as valued and valuable as learning good academic English. It is best if parents let the school know which languages are spoken.

My child speaks English already

Not all bilingual students need help developing their communicative English. Some bilingual students speak very good English if they have been in the country for much of primary school. However, these students will continue to need support to develop the extended vocabulary and complex writing structures that will get them the higher GCSE grades.

My child doesn't speak much English

Your child will be assessed for how much English they speak when they come to Haileybury Turnford. They will be put in contact with an older peer mentor, hopefully one who speaks their language. They will also be carefully placed in a form where there are children who can help them by translating or with staff who can translate.

An EAL Profile will be written based on their English and teachers will be given suggestions as to how to improve your child's English during their lessons. They will also have ESOL and academic English lessons three times a week as well as extra prep and reading in addition to their subject prep. The EAL Centre will also run lunchtime and afterschool clubs to help your child with their prep.

We recommend that you download the Duolingo app on your child's phone to help them learn some basic English. Duolingo has English lessons for speakers of other languages. Just scroll down to the bottom of the list of languages to choose.

Should I continue to read and write with my child in my language?

Haileybury Turnford encourages parents and carers to read and write in their home language with their young people. Bilingual books are available from most local libraries and can be requested in over 50 languages. This will enable students to prepare themselves over time for an extra GCSE exam in their home language as well as improving their overall literacy skills.

How EAL Students Are Assessed for English Acquisition

EAL students who are new to English are levelled on their English language competence according to the DFE Proficiency Scales, which assess English language acquisition. There are 8 steps in the acquisition of English in the 4 skill areas; **Listening and Understanding, Speaking, Reading and Writing.**

Each skill is divided into 8 steps. The first 2 steps show the stages that a beginner learner who is new to English goes through. Steps 3 and 4 describe a learner who is at the early acquisition stage of English. EAL Centre at Haileybury Turnford, May 2017, Parental Handbook May 2017

Steps 5 and 6 describe the development stages of an EAL learner developing competence and steps 7 and 8 of an advanced EAL learner. Step 8 is reserved solely for those students who are fluent in English in that skill. The 8 steps show a development of English language acquisition from a level of no English to a level of English language skills which are equal to that of a monolingual learner of the same age. Initial learners are assessed once a half-term. It is expected that students will have an uneven language profile, i.e., a student might be able to read English, having been taught it as a foreign language in their home country, but may not be able to speak it.

EAL learner	EAL level	Key
New to English (Code A)	Step 1	S1
	Step 2	S2
Early Acquisition (Code B)	Step 3	S3
	Step 4	S4
Developing Competence (Code C)	Step 5	S5
	Step 6	S6
Competent (Code D)	Step 7	S7
Fluent (Code E)	Step 8	S8

Home Language GCSEs and the English Bacallaureate

Supporting and encouraging bilingualism is a key part of the EAL Centre ethos. The EAL Centre will work with the MFL Department to identify bi-literate students who can achieve home language GCSEs or other qualifications either as extra GCSEs or as part of the English Bacallaureate qualification. Students who could take such qualifications but may not have strong literacy in their home language are encouraged to study their own language with their families, where possible.

All bilingual students are encouraged to use any community language skills they have in a positive way to help fellow community-language peers in their classes or tutor groups where a new student's English proficiency is still developing.

For further information, please contact: Mrs L Tarantini-Amor, Lead Practitioner for EAL and Spanish Teacher