



## Scarborough College

### LANGUAGE POLICY (INC. PROVISION FOR EAL)

*This policy applies to Scarborough College Senior School*

#### **Mission Statement**

Above all, our commitment is to discover and fully realise every child's potential by ensuring that all pupils are seen as individuals whose specific needs are recognised and met. We are dedicated to providing a far-reaching education that goes beyond the boundaries of the classroom, underpinned by strong lifelong values, which inspires academic excellence and ensures pupils are challenged. Regular opportunities to understand their own capabilities through exposure to a broad range of sporting, cultural and creative activities, widens our pupils' horizons and builds their self-confidence. Within our outward-facing, grounded and caring community the relationships that exist nurture tolerant, honest and compassionate people who will make a genuine difference in their futures beyond the confines of our school.

#### **Philosophy**

Language is our primary method of communication and the foundation for how we interact with and understand the world around us. Language learning is fundamental to fostering intercultural understanding and international-mindedness. It is crucial to encourage multilingualism and provide opportunities for both developing a new language and support for those with home languages other than English (the language of instruction). In an environment such as ours, where many different nationalities are represented, all languages are valued equally and all teachers are language teachers.  
sessions.

#### **Aims**

- To respect and value diversity within society and demonstrate sensitivity and tolerance to those from different backgrounds and traditions.
- To enable pupils of all abilities to understand and use an additional language effectively for the purpose of practical communication in the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing.
- To develop an awareness of the nature of language and language learning.
- To encourage positive attitudes to language learning and to speakers of other languages.
- To offer an insight into the culture of English, French, German, Mandarin and Spanish speaking countries through sharing of staff and pupil knowledge and use of media such as the internet, films, books and magazines.
- To encourage as many pupils as possible to develop their independence by taking part in cultural visits to other countries.
- To develop pupil attitudes towards learning, including their ability to demonstrate initiative and independence, their willingness to work collaboratively and the extent to which they take leadership in their learning.
- To develop the habit of independent reading and encourage pupils to value reading as a pleasure and an essential skill for life.
- To promote literacy skills throughout the curriculum and in all subjects.
- To support those with other home/personal languages.
- To develop the ability of all pupils to read critically, analysing and evaluating the ways in which writers, speakers and the mass media use language to communicate and manipulate meanings, including propaganda.

## **Language Acquisition**

All pupils are given the opportunity to study at least one language throughout their time at the College. This begins in the prep school as pupils start to learn French through games, songs, assemblies and by giving pupils the opportunity to understand basic communicative speech.

Throughout Y7-Y9 students study both French and Spanish. Listening and reading skills are the main priority following the innovative method of Dr Gianfranco Conti. Through modelling students will be constantly involved in speaking, listening and reading activities whilst understanding basic grammar rules. All KS3 students are fully integrated into the KS3 curriculum. Where necessary, one-to-one sessions with an EAL specialist teacher can be arranged for any students who need additional support with their English and these would take place during the language acquisition classes (see "Provision for EAL Learners" below for further details regarding EAL support throughout the College).

In years 10 and 11 pupils study for the AQA GCSE qualification in at least one language (French or Spanish). The foundations for GCSE success are laid from the very beginning of year 7, as we gradually develop the skills and knowledge required to tackle the challenges of these rigorous 9-1 exams.

In the Sixth Form the language acquisition courses offered, subject to numbers, are:

Language B (SL/HL) - French, English, Spanish and Mandarin

Ab initio - French, Spanish, Mandarin and German

Language choices throughout the senior school are guided by teachers in consultation with parents and pupils. Prior experience of the target language, specific learning needs, home language and class size are some of the factors considered when these decisions are made.

## **Support for Home Languages**

As explained below, those students with English as an additional language are supported in their language acquisition by the EAL department. Other cultures and languages are also supported through International Day celebrations and events such as Chinese New Year and Burns Night.

The library is well resourced and stocks books in a variety of languages. Students are able to request books and magazines directly from the librarian - both to support language learning and reading/learning in their home language.

Language A courses at IB are offered in English and German and students are able to take self taught courses in other languages.

## **Provision for EAL Learners**

Overseas students are an integral part of Scarborough College life. The purpose of the EAL department is to support these students in order that they can fully access the mainstream curriculum and college life as a whole. The EAL department works closely with college staff to ensure that overseas students feel safe, valued and accepted, and enjoy their time here. We work to support students in order that they can maximise their personal experiences and meet their academic potential.

All students given a place at Scarborough College must be able to manage the normal academic curriculum of the school, and to this end the EAL department is involved in the admissions process. The EAL department also advises on the suitability of students moving from KS4 to KS5 by confirming that their English has reached the requisite level to access the IBDP.

The level of English of all students for whom English is not their first language is assessed by means of a language placement test. This takes place soon after their arrival and enables us to ascertain what level of support, if any, the student will need in order to ensure that their time at Scarborough College is successful. The results of the Placement Tests are recorded on a central electronic register for staff reference. These results also inform decisions on whether students will be in native speaker English classes, or EAL/IB English B classes.

In KS5 a large proportion of students are able to follow the IB English A course, but we also offer English B for those who are still in the acquisition stage of their English Language studies. We offer one-to-one sessions with an EAL specialist teacher for any students who need additional support or mentoring. There is an additional charge for these sessions. Students are also able to take the IELTS exam if this is necessary for their further studies.

In KS4 some EAL students are able to follow the English GCSE course, but the majority follow the Pearson/Edexcel iGCSE ESOL course. The suitable course of study is determined by the results of the Placement Test and also in discussion with the student themselves and their parents. One-to-one sessions with an EAL specialist teacher can be arranged for any students who need additional support.

KS3 students are fully integrated into the KS3 curriculum. Where necessary, one-to-one sessions with an EAL specialist teacher can be arranged for any students who need additional support.

The EAL department staff work in close conjunction with all college staff to ensure that our students for whom English is not their home language have a successful experience while they are at the College, both academically and socially.

The College has a 'Book in your Bag' policy, and EAL students take part in weekly reading sessions with native speaker students.

The English department has a Book Club which EAL students attend.

*Policy Prepared by:*

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Person Responsible for Updates	Date Last Reviewed	Next Review Due
Katie Cooke	March 2022	March 2024