

Eltham Hill School



Eltham Hill
SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

Governors Committee: Teaching & Innovation

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Eltham Hill School Language Policy

At Eltham Hill, we are committed to being inclusive. We are a diverse community and all students are valued. This document outlines the teaching of language at the college and also the support given for students for whom English is not their first language.

Our Philosophy for the Teaching of Language

Eltham Hill is committed to teaching students from all cultures and backgrounds. Eltham Hill also encourages students to value and celebrate their own languages as well as learning new languages. We know that language is the primary way of communicating at school and we believe that our philosophy of inclusion is reflected in all aspects of the School. Our Diversity and Integration Team supports students with language and also has a clear induction programme for students and staff who arrive at the school who have English as an Additional Language. If a student is proficient in languages, these skills are transferable to other areas of the curriculum.

When students arrive at the School, they are assigned a buddy and they have access to a wide variety of resources and support from the Diversity and Integration Team. Students also have the opportunity to have in-class support with language but are also encouraged to use their first language in lessons and activities within the school and lessons. This is reviewed with students on a regular basis, including at a yearly student conference and student support day.

Our Aims

1. To support students in their use of language including communication, team work, collaborative learning.
2. To teach students to use language effectively and accurately in order to achieve their best.
3. To develop students' confidence when using language in all areas of the curriculum.
4. To support students to use language in a variety of situations, with confidence.
5. To understand and appreciate literature and texts from a variety of sources and authors, including the promotion of students as authors.
6. Expect and encourage students to appreciate other languages and understand that language is important to creating and maintaining cultural identities.
7. Encourage linguistic skills across the curriculum, with all staff leading on language.
8. To encourage the enjoyment of language and literature across the college through the study and analysis of texts.
9. To share good practice with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and staff in other schools in terms of language teaching.

10. Encourage students to build their confidence and experiment with language in a variety of contexts.
11. To develop a sense of international mindedness and cross curricular ways of working.
12. We are committed to all students in terms of the progress that they make at Eltham Hill, providing a challenging, international curriculum.

Teaching at Eltham Hill

All teachers at Eltham Hill are teachers of language and therefore support this methodology in their lessons. Language learning underpins all lessons and the development of communication is expected in all lessons. Our focus on the Personal Learning and Thinking Skills at Key Stage 3 in our creative curriculum also promotes the value of communication. For example, activities focus on team work, communication and effective participation. Resources are differentiated and resourced to support the needs of all learners. All teachers strive to support students in their acquisition and use of language. All students are expected to learn one language other than the language that they primarily communicate in. However, students' first language is encouraged and valued at the School and in lessons. Where possible, students can present and write in their first language and also cultural and linguistic variance is valued and celebrated. This celebration of first language is central to maintaining cultural identity. Language learning at the School helps to promote international-mindedness and supports the delivery of the International Baccalaureate and also in the equality of access to the curriculum at all levels at Eltham Hill. A variety of resources, teaching methods, technologies and activities are provided to ensure language development at all levels. Guided reading and writing will be offered in all lessons to build confidence.

The Learning Environment

We believe at Eltham Hill, that the Learning Environment is fundamental in developing students' language skills. All classrooms/resource areas will therefore:

1. Display key words and definitions where appropriate
2. Display and celebrate students' work.
3. Have organised resources and access to dictionaries where appropriate.
4. Have access to technology and reference materials.
5. Encourage the use of different languages in display and resources created by staff.

Assessment

Assessment at Eltham Hill takes a variety of forms that support language development for all students. These include:

1. Oral presentations.
2. Group work and team collaboration.
3. Written assignments.
4. Visual presentations including film, poster and visual notes.
5. Multi-media and ICT presentation including film, Powerpoint, Pod-casts, blogs, web-pages and visual presentations.
6. Self reflection or journals.
7. Self and Peer assessment.
8. Performances.
9. Portfolios.
10. Exams and Tests.

Language of Instruction at Eltham Hill

For the International Baccalaureate the primary language of instruction at Eltham Hill is English. The Group 1 subject offer will be Language and Literature. However, students will have the opportunity to study other languages in Group 2 subjects – French and German. As we develop the International Baccalaureate at Eltham Hill, we will extend this offer. At Key Stage 4 currently, we offer French, German, Italian, Mandarin and also a range of courses for students with English as an Additional Language. Some students have also taken A-Levels in these languages. The college will encourage students to take the self-supported options at IB level where appropriate. If there is a sufficient demand, ab initio courses, will be offered in Group 2.

We have a well established Diversity and Integration team who support students in lessons and offer after school support for students. There are also a range of resources and computing equipment specifically for students who have English as an Additional Language. Texts and dictionaries are also brought for students to support their learning. In addition to this, the Special Needs Team and Modern Foreign Languages Team support students throughout their time at Eltham Hill.

Administration

On our Student Information System, all students' languages are collected and recorded. This means that all staff have access to this information and use this to inform their planning and to differentiate resources in lessons.

The results of all students are closely monitored throughout the year and reported to parents both in written and verbal form. Also, careful analysis of data means that groups of students with English as an Additional Language are closely monitored. Our EAL learners are one of the highest achieving groups at

Key Stage 4, making very good progress highlighting our commitment to achievement.

The Vice Principal, leading on standards, will regularly monitor the progress of students who have English as an Additional Language and report to the Leadership Group and Governors. They will ensure that achievement and progress are in line with all students in the School.

All students who enter the school with English as an Additional Language will be given a programme of induction and be supported by the Diversity and Integration team. This support will continue after the induction period, with in-class support and also a base for students to meet with staff and other students for support. This base also has a range of resources in different languages for use by the students.

All students are immersed in the curriculum as soon as they arrive and they are not taught separately. However, 1-1 support is offered in the Diversity and Integration Team.

Students will be supported through their choices at Key Stage 4 and 5, with a 1-1 interview with their subject teachers, Head of Year Leader and also the Leadership Team. Students also have daily meetings with their Form Tutors so that they have the opportunity to discuss any issues that they need to.

Communicating with Parents

At Eltham Hill, there are regular reporting evenings and Information and Guidance evenings. Where appropriate, translation is offered for parents and students. Eltham Hill will often seek out the support of the local community to provide translators.