

Language Policy	2h
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Responsible for Initiating Review of Policy	Assistant Head Pastoral and Boarding
Committee to Review	Senior Leadership Team
Last Review Date	September 2021
Review Period	2 years
Approved by (Committee and Date)	Senior Leadership Team September 2021
Approved by Board of Governors	Approved - Welfare and Boarding Sub-Committee at the first Meeting each September
Effective Date of Policy	September 2021
Next Review Date	September 2023
Related Policies	2h EAL policy Boarding Principles and Practice

LANGUAGE POLICY STATEMENT- Senior School and Sixth Form

To be read in conjunction with the EAL Policy and the Boarding Aims and Principles

Aims of the Language Policy Statement

It is the aim of Burgess Hill Girls to ensure that all students are provided with an excellent education. To achieve this, the school works closely with pupils, parents and guardians to provide the educational support required alongside encouraging all pupils, where English is not their first language, to see the benefits to their education of the school's language policy.

Burgess Hill Girls recognises that parents/guardians of international students are proud to provide their daughters with an opportunity to be educated in the UK. Through our holistic approach to education we see it as our responsibility to ensure all pupils leave the school with excellent academic results, confidence and the essential skills to achieve their desired educational journey and/or career path. We guide and encourage all international students to take full advantage of what opportunities are on offer.

Within the school community many languages exist side by side and students are encouraged to compare languages and the cultures that are associated with them as part of the school's celebration of diversity.

English is the preferred and acceptable language of communication in the school. English is used in school publications, on its website, on signage, in communication between school and parents/guardians, and between members of staff. At Burgess Hill Girls, we are committed to providing an inclusive and impartial learning environment.

Objectives of the Language Policy Statement

- to ensure the students at Burgess Hill Girls are able to develop an excellent understanding of the English language.
- to build language and communication skills in speaking and writing that will support outstanding academic results
- to enhance students' personal growth, and their participation and involvement in the wider community

To fulfil these objectives, we recognise that as students, teachers and parents/guardians we all have a role to play.

APPENDIX I**Language Policy Implementation**

As an international/EAL student, to build my own confidence and skill in the use of English I will:

- recognise that learning to communicate effectively in English is essential and part of the reason I attend Burgess Hill Girls
- try to speak with confidence in a wide range of contexts, adapting as appropriate to the context of whom I am speaking with
- endeavour to identify key features of language used for a specific purpose e.g. to persuade or instruct
- read a range of more challenging and demanding reading material independently
- be inquisitive and ask/answer questions about topics and express opinions to actively participate in using my English

The whole School will:

- be encouraging and supportive of me as an EAL student
- help me to expand my knowledge of the English language from my arrival as this will assist me in accessing lesson content
- support me in achieving my full academic potential

To be part of a wider school culture and participate fully in learning:

As an EAL student I will:

- speak English in my academic lessons and activities
- speak English in all public areas including tutor rooms, common rooms and all communal spaces with other students
- engage as a member of a group in class or individually qualifying or justifying my opinions
- actively seek and get involved in the many different roles and opportunities provided within school and the wider community

Members of the whole school community will:

- support and encourage me to speak English in order to help me to form friendships with peers and members of the wider school community

- support and foster the strong associations which are created throughout the academic years with individuals or groups of students that often develop into lifetime friendships
- ensure that I feel included and part of the Burgess Hill Girls' community at all times
- extend the hand of friendship to students new to the school and the country, appreciating the challenges of their situation

To show my respect for my peers, adults and the school community**As an EAL student I will:**

- speak English in all major areas of the school including the boarding houses

As a member of the whole school community I will:

- engage with and be inclusive of all other members of the school community
- create a culture of inclusion for EAL speakers
- support students' confidence in English through encouraging sensitive participation in class and in activities
- recognise that conducting a conversation in one's first language while in the presence of others can cause upset and prevent others from being involved and feeling included
- work to ensure that the positive aspects of speaking in English will benefit everyone
- appreciate that at times it can be hard but working together will help everyone involved