How will my child be assessed?

Your child will be assessed on an individual basis by looking at EAL work, the work they do in the classroom, and by plotting them on the EAL continuums of reading, writing, listening and speaking. This is done in collaboration with their classroom teachers. Your child's EAL teacher will share this information with you twice a year at parent conferences.

How long will my child have EAL support?

Language learning is a very individual process and varies considerably from child to child. See our leaflet ***Stages of Language Learning.*** Generally students will have EAL support until EAL and classroom work indicate that they are meeting grade level expectations independently. This decision is taken jointly by the classroom teacher, the EAL teacher, the parents and the child.

What about my child's native language?

Your child's native language is their greatest resource while they are learning English. This is because all of their past experiences and prior learning are tied up in their Mother Tongue. We do not want them to lose their language but rather to develop it and add English to the language(s) they already speak. For this reason, we teach the students to make connections between English and the language(s) they speak at home. We teach them to think about similarities and differences in grammar and vocabulary and in the way that words are pronounced . We also encourage them to use their native language to research the topics they are studying in their classes. This will make it easier for them to understand them in English.

For more information about Mother Tongue, please see our leaflet ***The Importance of the Mother Tongue.***

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What is EAL Support?

Support Team Information for Parents

What is EAL Support?

EAL (English as an Additional Language) Support is provided to help students whose first language is not English. This is to enable them to be successful in the academic programme of the grade level classroom where English is the language of instruction . EAL teachers work with classroom teachers to help children develop English language skills, and learning strategies. EAL teachers also promote cultural awareness and help students integrate in the social life of the school.

EAL Philosophy

At ISA we believe that a sheltered immersion model is the best way to promote English acquisition. EAL and mainstream teachers work together to provide language instruction and content support in order to ensure that students are able to access the school curriculum, while at the same time developing their English skills.

How is EAL organised?

ISA is a small school with a dynamic population so classes and numbers vary from year to year. However, EAL support is generally organised as follows:

Elementary School
EAL support in place of French or Spanish
Intensive EAL for complete beginners
In-class support from EAL teacher

Middle School
EAL support in place of French or Spanish
Intensive EAL for complete beginners in place of mainstream English
In-class support from EAL teacher

High School
EAL Support in place of French or Spanish or during study hall

What happens in EAL Classes?

EAL is not a language class like French or Spanish. Every class your child participates in is also an English class and that is where they do most of their language learning. EAL supports that learning . When students arrive with little or no English, the EAL teachers will teach them the social language that they will need to make friends, ask the classroom teacher for what they need, become familiar with the names of classroom objects and instructions, use the cafeteria and generally feel comfortable around school. Secondly, EAL aims to help students to acquire the academic language of the different subject areas so that they can participate in the reading, writing, listening and speaking activities that go on, and complete their homework assignments. EAL groups are small so that the students relax and feel comfortable to try out new language, share fears and anxieties and ask questions about the new culture they are living in.

How does EAL work at different grade levels?

EAL support is targeted at individual needs, so activities to promote language learning can vary greatly. The following activities are just some examples of support that can be provided at different grade levels:

Elementary Grades Preschool to Grade 2

- Teaching survival language
- Reading stories and looking at picture books
- Playing games and singing songs
- Working on letter sounds and sight words
- Working with reading groups

Grades 3 to 6

- Teaching survival language
- Supporting classroom reading and writing
- Playing games to develop listening and speaking
- Building vocabulary
- Working with novel groups

Grades 7 to 12

- Supporting oral presentations
- Supporting literature assignments
- Paraphrasing and summarising activities
- Building vocabulary
- Teaching good language learning strategies