



Marina International School

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English as an Additional Language Policy

Overview

Marina International School is committed to providing a broad, student-centered education in a safe and caring environment, ensuring that every pupil achieves their individual best. Our mission is to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to both The Gambia and the world. Our vision is to be an internationally recognized school fostering academic excellence and character development within a diverse community of students and staff.

The core values of **Respect, Achievement, Integrity, Service, and Empathy (R.A.I.S.E.)** guide all aspects of our educational approach, including the support we provide to English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners. We respect linguistic diversity, encourage academic achievement through equitable access to the Cambridge curriculum, uphold integrity by ensuring fair and inclusive learning opportunities, promote service by assisting students in overcoming language barriers, and demonstrate empathy in fostering an inclusive environment where all students feel valued and supported.

This EAL policy is a reflection of our commitment to these values. It ensures that students from English-minority backgrounds receive tailored linguistic support, empowering them to thrive academically and socially within our school community. Through structured EAL instruction, differentiated teaching strategies, and ongoing assessment, we uphold our mission and vision by equipping every student with the language skills necessary to succeed in both their educational journey and future contributions to society.

Aims and Objectives

The EAL policy aims to:

- Provide equitable access to the Cambridge curriculum for students with varying levels of English proficiency.
- Support English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners in developing their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
- Promote cultural diversity and inclusion while maintaining academic excellence.
- Ensure that EAL learners receive tailored support to achieve their full potential.

- Encourage staff, students, and parents to contribute to an environment of empathy and support for EAL students.

Admission and Assessment of EAL Learners

- Upon admission, students from non-English-speaking backgrounds undergo an English proficiency assessment.
- Assessment methods include standardized tests, interviews, and written exercises.
- Based on results, students are placed into appropriate EAL support levels.
- Regular progress assessments are conducted to determine further support needs.

EAL Curriculum and Instruction

- EAL learners receive specialized English language instruction integrated into their academic schedules.
- EAL instruction focuses on grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills.
- Subject teachers employ differentiated instruction strategies to accommodate EAL students.
- Classroom support includes visual aids, bilingual dictionaries, and interactive learning tools.
- Extra-curricular English immersion programs, such as book clubs and public speaking activities, are available.

Teaching Strategies for EAL Students

Teachers incorporate the following strategies:

- **Scaffolding Techniques:** Step-by-step guidance to enhance comprehension.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Peer mentoring and group activities for language practice.
- **Multimodal Instruction:** Use of audio, visual, and digital resources.
- **Formative Assessments:** Ongoing evaluations to track language development.
- **Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs):** Tailored plans for students needing additional language support.

Role of Teachers and Support Staff

- All teachers receive training on EAL teaching methodologies.
- EAL specialists work closely with subject teachers to adapt lesson plans.
- The school counselor and pastoral care team provide emotional and social support to EAL students.

Parental and Community Engagement

- Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's language development through workshops and school programs.
- The school organizes English language support groups for parents.
- Collaboration with local community organizations to provide English immersion experiences.

Assessment and Progress Monitoring

- EAL students undergo periodic assessments to measure language proficiency growth.
- Feedback is provided to students and parents regularly.
- Transition criteria are established for students to move from EAL support to mainstream instruction.

Inclusion and Cultural Sensitivity

- The school promotes a multicultural environment where all students feel valued and included.
- Classroom activities incorporate global perspectives to respect linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Teachers receive training on cultural competency and language-sensitive instruction.

Review and Continuous Improvement

- The EAL policy is reviewed annually based on student progress data and feedback.
- Ongoing professional development ensures staff remains updated on best EAL practices.
- The school remains committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and high-achieving environment for all students.

Conclusion This EAL policy aligns with the school's mission to provide a broad, student-centered education that supports individual achievements in a diverse community. By implementing structured EAL support, the school ensures that all students, regardless of linguistic background, are prepared to contribute to both The Gambia and the global community.