EAL – NEW ARRIVALS POLICY

Preamble

School Principals or their delegates are required to inform parents or guardians of newly arrived English as an Additional Language (EAL) students of their eligibility to attend an English Language School/Centre or participate in the Virtual EAL New Arrivals Program if assessed as requiring an intensive English program.

Rationale

Mount Ridley has a growing contingent of EAL students from a wide variety of Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Presently there are over 50 different cultural groups and 70 languages spoken. This number continues to increase year by year.

Approximately 1400 students at our College population have a Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). With almost half of these students residing in Australia for less than 7 years.

Teachers are required to communicate the curriculum effectively and efficiently to students who speak English as an Additional Language. EAL students also need to feel comfortable learning and communicating in Australia, in a welcoming environment in English as well as maintaining their first language.

Guiding Principles

To ensure that parents or carers of newly arrived students for whom English is an additional language are aware of what intensive English language support is available for their children, and how it can be accessed.

Implementation

The Department provides intensive EAL instruction to prepare students for participation in mainstream schools.

Students attend an English Language School/Centre for a period of six and twelve months, depending on their educational background and/or refugee/humanitarian status.

At times placement at an English Language School might not be possible for various reasons. Therefore, students are required to access mainstream schooling. When placements become available, students will be referred to the closest English Language School/Centre.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to attend an English Language School/Centre, New Arrivals Program students:

- must hold a visa that entitles them to enrol in a Victorian government school and attract SRP funding
- must speak a language other than English as their main language at home
- must have proficiency in English that is determined, at the local level by a school or English language school, to require intensive assistance to enable them to participate fully in mainstream classroom programs
- must begin at an English Language School/Centre
- must be within 18 months of arrival if entering the first year of primary schooling
- must be within six months of arrival if entering any other year of schooling
- at the time of enrolling in an English language school/centre, students must be undertaking or intending to undertake primary or secondary education at a Victorian Government school as soon as practicable after completing the course.

International students

Fee-paying overseas students requiring an intensive English language course before entering mainstream classes can enrol in an English Language School/Centre to undertake such a course.

Students must enrol in a school through the International Student Program before enrolling in an English language school/centre.

At Mount Ridley P-12 College, EAL students will be supported through:

- the establishment and maintenance of links with language schools in Craigieburn, Hume and Broadmeadows
- our EAL Leaders attending enrolment meetings
- our EAL Leaders assessing student English Language competency
- our EAL Leaders offering the Language School Program as an option provided that the students meet the aforementioned requirements
- our EAL Curriculum Leaders coordinating transition days prior to students returning to mainstream school
- the translation of enrolment information for parents in key community languages; and
- testing and grouping of students into support classes (where needed) to occur to ascertain level.

Evaluation

As part of the College review cycle, this policy will be reviewed every three years.
Date Ratified: June 2021
Date of next review: 2024