

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) POLICY

RATIONALE:

English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners are a diverse group, and their learning needs vary. The need to develop new cultural understandings, in both the educational contexts and in the wider community is paramount. Catering for the language and literacy development of EAL learners is a long term, shared school community commitment. At Findon, we value diversity and work with all community members to support student learning, wellbeing and family engagement with the school.

AIMS:

- To ensure all students are supported to reach their personal and academic potential
- To enable all students and families with the opportunity to participate in mainstream classroom tasks and wider community events
- To provide and promote an understanding of cultural diversity at Findon
- To engage EAL families in the school environment

IMPLEMENTATION:

- EAL students include students who are:
 - Beginning school in Australia at any year level
 - Born overseas or in Australia
 - Beginning school with little, some or no exposure to English
 - With schooling equivalent to that received by their chronological peers
 - With little or no previous formal schooling in any country, or with severely interrupted education in their first language
- The school will be aware of EAL and refugee students and will communicate this to staff
- The enrolment process will seek information about EAL and refugee students in relation to number of years in Australia, language spoken, past school experiences, outside agencies involved with the family/student
- School will work with families of refugee status and external agencies accordingly
- Key school information during the enrolment process and throughout the year will be translated where required
- Upon enrolment, students may be linked to a peer mentor. The role of the peer mentor will be to orient EAL and refugee students to the school and key staff
- Staff will receive professional learning/reading in relation to providing EAL pedagogies
- Teaching and learning and assessment advice will be accessed from the EAL Developmental Continuum F-10 and EAL Handbook
- Language interpreters will be used to support family engagement where required
- Home school partnerships and parent engagement will be encouraged
- Connections to students first language and culture will be valued
- The school will access English Language School and other outside agencies to support EAL and refugee students as required

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

REFERENCES:

DET EAL Policy

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/eal/Pages/default.aspx>

DET EAL Provision

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/esl.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/eal/Pages/ealnewstudent.aspx>

Support for refugee students

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/eal/Pages/ealsupportrefugee.aspx>