

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

The study of English is about the appropriate and effective use of the language as a means of learning and communicating. Through language use, students convey and discover information, work through ideas and express feelings.

Students learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) need targeted English language teaching, extra time, support and exposure to English before they can attain the learning outcomes described in the English domain of the Australian Curriculum. These students require the opportunity to acquire English language proficiency and the support to develop the skills necessary to function effectively within society through the differentiation of teaching and learning programs. The Victorian government's '*Vision for English as an Additional Language in Education and Development Settings*' outlines the necessity for all Victorian education settings to equip EAL learners with the English language and literacy skills they need to participate in education, the workplace and community life in the 21st century.

All members of staff at Mount Waverley North Primary School are responsible for all students' language development across the curriculum. Mainstream teachers of EAL students and EAL Specialists work together to build on students' experiences and skills to assist them to learn English.

PURPOSE

Students:

- To support students to develop a level of competency and confidence in using English that allows students to fully participate in social and school-based contexts
- To develop students' competence in English and their ability to use and understand English to function effectively when communicating and learning
- To ensure students with a background of EAL continue their conceptual development in all areas of their learning whilst developing English language skills.

Staff:

- To ensure that all staff at Mount Waverley North Primary School are aware of the needs of EAL students and to provide guidelines on how the EAL program is organised to cater for the needs of these students.

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Review by Date:	November 2026

IMPLEMENTATION

Procedures upon Enrolment:

- Accurate information is collected at enrolment, including visa status code (where applicable) and educational history.
- Initial assessment of newly enrolled new arrival EAL students is undertaken by the classroom teacher and assessments as per the MWNPS Whole School Assessment Schedule.
- EAL Specialist will liaise with the classroom teacher and where agreed, will make contact with new enrolments to determine if they need EAL support and if appropriate, add students to the EAL database.

Eligibility:

Eligibility for the EAL program at Mount Waverley North Primary School is based on the EAL Specialist's time allocation and the number of EAL students who need additional support.

Priority is given to:

- Students who are newly arrived to Australia.
- Students identified as refugees.
- Students who have English as an Additional Language who are identified through the school assessment database or other assessments as performing below the Victorian Curriculum expected level.

The Principal Team will inform parents or guardians of newly arrived English as an Additional Language (EAL) students of what intensive English language support is available for their children at Mount Waverley North Primary School and their eligibility to attend an English Language School (see below).

Assessment, Reporting and Monitoring:

- Newly arrived students, from non-English speaking countries outside Australia, are initially placed on the EAL Continuum.
- A collaborative decision (between classroom teacher, EAL Specialist and input from the Principal Team) is reached for each individual student to determine if they are placed onto the EAL Continuum or assessed against the Victorian Curriculum - English.
- Students' progress is regularly monitored and assessed by both the classroom teacher and EAL Specialist and assessed against the Victorian Curriculum - English once they are operating at a Victorian Curriculum level that matches their peers (at level or 6 months behind).
- Assessments as outlined on the Mount Waverley North Primary School Assessment Schedule, along with other diagnostic, formative and summative assessments are used to make an informed decision.

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EAL Specialist and EAL Program:

- Students at Mount Waverley North Primary School who are identified requiring EAL support will be supported by an EAL Specialist through the EAL program.
- The EAL Specialist Program aligns with the Mount Waverley North Primary School Annual Implementation Plan and Strategic Plan
- EAL students' individual abilities will be measured at the commencement of their involvement in the EAL program and monitored regularly. Learning opportunities will be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Student progress in EAL will be reported in Semester One and Two academic reports against EAL Continuum standards (or moved on to the Victorian Curriculum – English).
- EAL activities that reflect the topics being studied at school, and are appropriate to each child's ability, will form a regular component of each student's EAL homework regime.

The EAL Specialist will:

- oversee the EAL Program in the school
- be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the EAL program including program budget submissions, excursions etc.
- work closely with the classroom teacher to share information about student progress and place EAL learners on the EAL Continuum or make a decision to move students on to the Victorian Curriculum - English
- liaise closely with each student's classroom teacher to provide tools and strategies to support EAL students.
- share EAL strategies with classroom teachers through modelling and coaching
- provide EAL professional development to staff
- assist teachers in developing and maintaining EAL resources.
- discuss with staff any concerns they have about EAL students and make suggestions and/or recommendations.
- liaise with the Principal Team about the EAL Program.
- timetable and coordinate EAL withdrawal classes

Allocation of resources for the EAL program will be reviewed annually as part of the school budget processes.

Translations and Interpreting:

Mount Waverley North Primary School will offer clear and regular communication with parents regarding their child's English language progress, and to this end will offer translations and communications to all Non-English speaking parents through utilising the language and translating skills of school staff, or through the Department of Education's partnership with Language Loop (formerly Victorian Interpreting and Translating Services – VITS).

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The Department of Education and Training provides intensive EAL instruction to prepare students for participation in mainstream schools. Students typically attend an English language school/centre for between six and twelve months, depending on their educational background and/or refugee/humanitarian status.

The Principal Team will inform parents or guardians of newly arrived English as an Additional Language (EAL) students of what intensive English language support is available for their children and their eligibility to attend an English language school/centre, if assessed as requiring an intensive English program.

Eligibility criteria for English Language School:

To be eligible to attend an English language school/centre or participate in the Virtual EAL 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 or enrol in the Virtual EAL New Arrivals Program
 - within 18 months of arrival if entering the first year of primary schooling
 - within six months of arrival if entering any other year of schooling
- at the time of enrolling in an English language school/centre, must be undertaking or intending to undertake primary or secondary education at a Victorian Government school as soon as practicable after completing the course.

RELATED POLICIES

Curriculum Framework Policy

International Students Policy

Inclusion and Diversity Policy

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's Evaluation of Policies Timetable.

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