

## **PROVISION FOR ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)**

At Durham High School for Girls we do not have bilingual assistants. Pupils for whom English is a second language will be spoken to in English at all times. All staff will treat these pupils with great sensitivity and care and with respect to their levels of understanding. We find that the acquisition of English is so rapid that such pupils soon access all areas of the curriculum easily. Where this is not the case differentiation of work and/or support will be given by the class teacher or, where it applies, a classroom assistant within the normal structure of the lessons. Pupils who have English as an additional language can be given specialist support if the School feels it is required and parental approval is received. Parents are asked to pay an additional charge for this service.

The entrance examination does mean that the pupils do need a minimum English standard as we do not have the facilities to accommodate pupils without this linguistic skill.

All lessons are taught in English and all resources are in English, with the obvious exception of MFL. However, it is recognised that at any given time there will be pupils in school for whom English is not the primary language at home.

In addition it is important that we recognise possible difficulties in communicating with a few parents. Letters can generally be read by the pupils at home but telephone conversations may be difficult. In these circumstances it may be useful to let the child pass on a message personally to ensure it has been received and understood e.g. changing arrangements for collection at the end of the day. It may also be necessary to make alternative arrangements for Parents' Evenings, perhaps meeting at a different time and allowing the child to be present.

In Junior House a home/school booklet is produced to make communication between school and home more straightforward.

At all times the school should be as supportive as possible to both the students and their parents.

*reviewed September 2009*