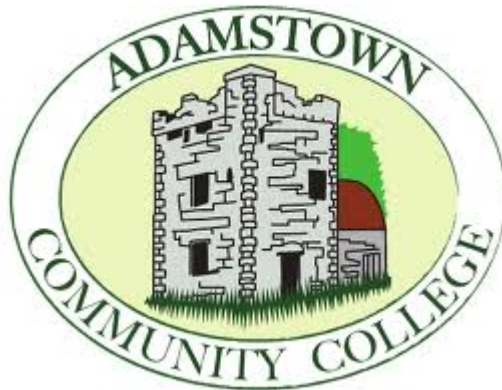


Adamstown Community College



English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Definition of EAL:

English as an Additional Language (EAL) is defined as additional support provided in English to students who use or have access to more than one language at home or at school. It does not necessarily imply full fluency in both or all languages.

Relationship to Mission Statement:

Under the Mission Statement of Adamstown Community College, we aim to have an ethos which reflects the following:

- Openness and inclusiveness in all College policies. Collaboration, cooperation and partnership between home, school and community are emphasised, encouraged and enabled.
- The College is committed to being inclusive; open and accessible to all students and learners.
- The College promotes a positive attitude towards social inclusion of minority groups and acts in solidarity with those most in need.
- The College is a caring and welcoming one, endeavouring to promote a culture of good relationships where people thrive and grow.
- The College is open to students of all faiths and none.

Policy Aims:

- To provide a framework for support and resources for those students for whom English is an additional language.
- To promote EAL students' development of English language proficiency through the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, so that they can improve their access to the curriculum.
- To promote a recognition of and respect for ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in the school, thus ensuring that EAL students feel valued and affirmed.
- To provide opportunities for interaction and collaborative work, so that EAL students can mutually support and learn with others.
- To encourage effective home school links and increase parental involvement among parents of EAL students.
- We are committed to ongoing continuous professional training for the delivery of EAL support.
- To provide opportunities for collaboration with class teachers and EAL support teachers.

Policy Content

Assessment

On entering first year in Adamstown Community College students complete the Cognitive Ability Test (CAT4) for an overall ability score. These results are used by school management to identify possible needs. Standard Ten (STen) scores and educational passports are collected from the primary schools. Students are assessed using the New Group Reading Test (NGRT) within the first term of First Year to determine their overall reading ability and reading age. Over the first term in Adamstown Community College all students will be informally observed by mainstream teachers. A list of potential EAL students is shared with the EAL Coordinator. Referrals are also taken from primary school passports, the guidance department, care teams and/or parents. A similar assessment will be offered to students who transfer to our school mid-year.

Formal assessment is then completed on the referred students through online testing using the Cambridge Placement test. This is an adaptive English language test which will place the EAL students within the Common European Framework of Reference for Language.

Testing will continue throughout the school year to gauge the level of English fluency acquired by each student. The EAL teacher will maintain records of these tests. Further testing and support may be provided for students in following years.

Cambridge testing is again conducted at the start of every year for students who have previously been in receipt of support to determine the level of support they require for that academic year.

Appropriate interventions

The students with the greatest language needs are prioritised for support. They may include an immersion programme, withdrawal from mainstream classes, in-class language support or small withdrawal support groups. A buddy system will attempt to match the native language of weaker EAL students with a student in the college who has fluency in that native tongue and has a higher level of proficiency in English. We support students in the maintenance of their native language. When possible the school will facilitate native language lessons to help students take a Leaving certificate exam in that native language

An Inclusive and safe environment will be promoted by the class tutor, the EAL teachers, Cara Aire members, mentors and all staff. Parents may be informed of the students' progress through the school journal and/or VsWare, individual meetings and at parent-teacher meetings. All students are encouraged to participate in school extra-curricular activities to foster this inclusive environment. This would also provide an opportunity for these students to improve conversational skills.

Parental Involvement:

Adamstown Community College recognises that the parents are the primary educators of their children and we aim to include them in our plans to support the students. We try to establish strong links between parents and the college to create the best possible learning environment.

Resources:

All resources for the provision of EAL will be in line with those provided to the school by Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB).