

# EAL/D Program Information



Ironsides State School prides itself on being one of Queensland's most multicultural schools, with students from non-English speaking backgrounds enriching our school program through the input of their diverse educational and cultural experiences.

The English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Program at Ironsides State School exists to develop confident, independent and balanced individuals with the skills necessary to achieve their potential in all aspects of life. We aim to provide experiences to develop student's knowledge, communication skills and awareness of their community and their responsibility towards it. We assist EAL/D students to both learn English and learn through English. We support students in accessing language across the curriculum while their English language skills develop.

Specialist EAL/D teachers work with students, who are newly arrived from overseas, as well as designing learning experiences to enable more advanced second language learners to cope with the demands of mainstream classes. Experienced EAL/D education support officers support students who are developing literacy skills and those who are transferring established literacy skills from their first language to English.

## **EAL/D Centre In E Block**

The EAL/D Room is located in E Block. This room is staffed by EAL/D Coordinator – Miss Kylie Sommerfeld, EAL/D Teachers and EAL/D Education Support Officers. These classrooms are used to teach Beginning English Classes and support students both in small groups and individually. Parent volunteers are welcome to assist with Beginning English classes and individual reading with students.

## **EAL/D Selection**

EAL/D students are identified on school enrolment and this is recorded on their One School Profile.

EAL/D students may include: students who have recently arrived in Australia with a home language other than English; students who have been born in Australia but speak another language or dialect at home; students who have been born in Australia but have been educated in another language or country; students of a refugee background; and students who speak English at home but whose parents are using English as a second language, will occasionally receive support through the program.

When appropriate, the EAL/D teachers assess the student's proficiency in English and recommend the appropriate support. EAL/D students receive support mainly during their first few years after arrival, although some students continue to receive support for longer periods, if assessed as requiring this. EAL/D support for Prep students starts in Semester 2 and for Years 1 to 6, from Semester 1. EAL/D identified students are monitored, with support changing as their English language proficiency develops. This support may range from the Beginning English Classes (3 x 1.5hr classes a week), Year Level Classes (2 x 45 mins sessions per week), small group or individual support, classroom support or term by term monitoring with incidental support on a needs basis.

Should parents be at all concerned about a student's English proficiency in literacy, they should contact the classroom teacher initially. Parents may also discuss their student's English needs with an EAL/D Teacher who can then advise on home activities and resources.

## **English Classes in E Block**

Beginning English and Year Level (academic language support) support is provided by the EAL/D teachers both in the EAL/D Room in E Block and in the mainstream classrooms. This support is offered to identified students and is timed to coincide with the regular classroom English curriculum where possible. Students' progress is reviewed at the beginning and end of each term and adjustments made to the level of support as required. Students

participating in the Beginning English Class continue to engage in their classroom's regular curriculum whilst not attending this class.

## **EAL/D Program**

Our EAL/D Program is designed to support mainstream education and to develop each student's English language skills by providing focussed support. These sessions of support may occur within the classroom environment, or through small group or individual withdrawal. Through these sessions the EAL/D teachers and education support officers aim to:

- support the Australian curriculum;
- promote oral language and phonemic awareness;
- improve writing and spelling skills;
- focus on developing literacy skills;
- focus on enhancing reading and comprehension skills;
- promote computer literacy and develop reading and writing skills through interactive software;
- provide focussed support in the completion of specific class tasks, eg preparing for an oral presentation.

## **International Parent Group**

The school hosts sessions for international parents to offer support and assistance in both settling their children into our school and in developing an understanding of our curriculum and school policies and procedures. This also helps establish positive partnerships between home and school. International parents are encouraged to organise get togethers for their language groups to help new parents feel comfortable about visiting the school and to facilitate informal discussions about school and local places of interest to visit on weekends and holidays. Parents are encouraged to be involved in school events such as Spring Fair and International Breakfast. The school newsletter is published on the school website each fortnight.

The topics for these weekly sessions range from strategies to assist students at home with homework and language development, understanding Australian schooling systems and curriculum, as well as getting to know Brisbane. We

also view the school newsletter each week, providing more information about upcoming events and answering any questions. These sessions will be held in the EAL/D Room on Friday mornings between 9am and 10:30 am. Please feel free to join us each Friday for some refreshments and a chance to discuss any questions you may have. It will be a great opportunity to get to know other parents in our community.

## **ADVICE FOR PARENTS WHO WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN WITH ENGLISH**

- Children, who know their first language well, seem to find it easier to learn English. So parents can help them to learn English by continuing the development of their first language. We suggest you tell your children stories, discuss the news, TV documentaries and family commitments. Assist them in letter writing to grandparents or let them talk on the telephone to relatives overseas.
- Parents can help prepare their children for their school experiences by taking them to the Queensland museum, to the beach, to the botanical gardens, for a ferry ride on the river, to their local library and to the zoo. Discuss these experiences with them in your own language. Students are then able to share these experiences when making new friends at school.
- New concepts are best learned in the child's first language so parents can help their children by teaching them to count, add and subtract, about time, colour, shape, texture, length and volume in their own language. Drawing a child's attention to the sounds and rhythm in their own language enhances their listening ability and acquisition of English.
- It is beneficial to regularly liaise with your child's classroom teacher. Good partnerships between home and school have been found to be instrumental in a child's educational experience. Interpreters are able to be accessed as required. A great strategy is to discuss upcoming classroom topics with your child in your own language. This helps your child to understand these topics more easily when they being taught in their classroom. It is also important to support your child each night while

they are completing home reading, learning sight words and spelling, as well as preparing talks and projects for school.

If you would like to contact us or make an appointment, please email EAL/D Coordinator, Kylie Sommerfeld – [ksomm2@eq.edu.au](mailto:ksomm2@eq.edu.au).

We hope you and your children enjoy your time at Ironside State School.

**Kylie Sommerfeld**

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***EAL/D Coordinator***

***Ironside State School***