

HBJ ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION POLICY

APPLIES TO:	Harrow Beijing (HBJ)
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REVISIONS: (Reviewer to enter initials and date)	



1. PURPOSE

English language acquisition is a primary focus within the HBJ educational model. This is a key priority given the majority of students use English as an additional language. This policy document sets out the purpose and philosophy that underpins the approach to supporting English language acquisition.

2. PHILOSOPHY

The approach to English language acquisition is founded on research within the field with a specific focus on East Asia. The following are fundamental pillars on which the HBJ philosophy is founded.

- 1. Recognition that many HBJ students are **Sequential** language learners. A **Sequential** language learner comprises a student who is familiar with one language (e.g. Putonghua) but is then introduced to a second language (e.g. English). The typical example of sequential learning is when a non-English speaking child enters an English-dominant classroom (Pinter, 2006). In sequential language acquisition, the way in which the second language is introduced and maintained is vital. In particular, it is important that languages are clearly separated rather than one person inconsistently using a mixture of two languages.
- 2. HBJ develops BICS and CALP

Students establish basic interpersonal communication skills (**BICS**) and then build cognitive academic language proficiency (**CALP**). This distinction is important, as learners typically acquire BICS before CALP, so educators must account for this within the curriculum. It is important to recognise that achieving fluency in a second language is a long-term endeavour, with reports indicating that 5-7 years is needed to realise the aim (Cummins, 1994).

- 3. Implement a whole school approach for CLIL Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) is an approach to promoting L2 (English) across all curriculum domains. It comprises utilising a set of common approaches to building linguistic proficiency through the acquisition of contents specific language. For instance, teachers of Physics, Art and PE can employ similar approaches to promoting oracy or speaking. This can reinforce and strengthen the impact of immersive experiences in English.
- 4. All staff have a **shared responsibility** for the development of the English language inside and outside of the classroom. English is the common language of the HBJ community and the main language of academic instruction, as such, all staff should play an active part in ensuring it is used as much as possible when at, or representing, the school. Language should never be used to exclude. English speaking staff and students should support those who are developing their English by adapting their language where necessary
- 5. It is the responsibility of all staff to create an environment in which students feel secure and valued in their use of English. To support this, staff should:
 - Model good use of English by engaging students in conversations in English, particularly when walking around campus and on duties.
 - Give regular positive praise for use of English, rewarding effort rather than ability. Show an active interest in students' home language, allowing them to demonstrate their linguistic ability; find out how to say something in the home language before modelling how it can be expressed in English.
 - Adapt English to support the needs of students in the earlier stages of language development by using non-verbal signals and stressing keywords to aid understanding. Grade your language to an



appropriate level for students. Explain the use of idiomatic or colloquial language.

• Engage with students' pronunciation and volume when speaking English. Model how to pronounce difficult words in English and at an appropriate pitch. Encourage students to reflect on their confidence in their home language and apply that to their spoken English.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRICULUM

The curriculum is structured so that pathways are provided to assist students with English language acquisition appropriate for their need. The curriculum experience develops the language required to listen, speak, read and write in English.

Assessment of English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing and overall is used to determine the support needed for each student. There are multiple pathways within the curriculum to enable the child to acquire the level of English needed to thrive academically and personally. These pathways may include:

- Mainstream curriculum pathway with differentiated learning opportunities provided to maximise access to the curriculum
- Targeted support from a Support Teacher (or equivalent) or 'push-in' support from the L&L (Upper School) and EAL (Lower School) departments
- 'Pull-out' programme by the L&L (Upper School) and EAL (Lower School) departments Small groups for interventions wherever possible students need to be active and receive plenty of focused teacher time during the sessions
- Intensive English programme in which the student, for a short period, has narrower curriculum opportunities with more time dedicated to English
- Intensive English programme that run over a longer-term period with sustained narrower curriculum opportunities

English curriculum plans contain learning objectives that are as specific to acquiring L2 and are aligned with the English proficiency framework (see Assessment below). Curriculum pathways in Senior School comprise:

- English as a second language IGCSE, or
- English as a first language IGCSE, or
- English as a first language IGCSE and English literature IGCSE

In the Sixth Form, students select an International standardised English examination for access to university, for instance IELTS or TOEFL.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR PEDAGOGY

To establish strong foundations for English language acquisition, a number of pedagogical approaches are implemented. These have been selected based on evidence of impact in the context of China and with Chinese learners. These pedagogical approaches are:

- Age appropriate, specific EAL programme, allowing children to build the four skills of English as identified by the child's needs (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Phonics. Read Write Inc is the recommended programme for Early Years and Lower School. Upper



School adopts a more suitable programme for teenagers (Life, RE, Pathways)

- Reading. Structured reading schemes employed (e.g. Accelerated Reader, Star Reader etc.). Currently there is not a dominant scheme with evidence of impact.
- Writing. Talk for Writing is the recommended approach to developing writing skills with full application of the programme in Lower School. Upper School to adapt use of Talk for Writing for developing writing skills based around similar topic areas to non-ESL/ EAL class curriculum.
- Oracy. Voice 21 are recommended as the model for promoting oracy across AISL Harrow Schools

Relevant resources to support with EAL provision:

- Reading Progress (TEAMS) for supporting pronunciation and the development of vocabulary based around GSE/CEFR/IELTS levels, enables support in tone, pronunciation and comprehension of what has been read
- MyOn/ Accelerated Reader: training required for librarian and also tutors to support in Upper School, records can be kept, competitions motivate students. "Read to" and inbuilt translate features are utilised with students.
- Bell Foundation- research and resources
- Read Theory: online for development of lexile levels
- Use of Chat GPT to support marking language adaptable for all levels of learners within the classroom (same text/ key words/ key concept provided within resources for classroom teaching)
- widgitonline.com is used to support understanding and vocabulary development through pictorial representation of words used in PPTs and reading materials
- Other excellent resources include: Life, Reading Explorer, Great Writing, Pathways all series have levels from Foundation (A1) to Advanced (C1+). The key is a curriculum/resources that ENGAGE the students.

Classroom Approaches

Shared expectations and strategies of how teachers can expose and build language use:

- Key vocabulary identified and explicitly taught
- Use of visuals (e.g., from widgit) to help visually support language development and understanding (also used for phonetic breakdown of vocabulary)
- Classroom strategies to support EAL students are prioritised and focused on
 - o Recommended strategies:
 - Comprehensible input
 - o AfL
 - Vocabulary
 - o Sentence level
 - Text level modelling (I do, we do, you do)
- Rubrics rubrics created which inform practice in the above areas (see HBJ vocabulary rubric for example, Bell Foundation Progressions)
- Staff have time to meet to share practice and feedback on the above strategies (e.g., via R&D groups, PLCS, triads, EAL teachers review alongside LS class teachers)
- Recommended strategies are discussed at department meetings

Outside Class



Progress in language understanding and comprehension relies on students being immersed in the language in and out of the classroom. Although the use of first language should not be removed, exposure to the English language should be increased. This can be supported in the following ways:

- a. Reinforcing language around the campus
 - Access to the library and resources at break and lunch times
 - Bilingual signage and displays around the school
- b. Holistic education
 - Celebration of language specific International Days (World Book Day, World Poetry Day)
 - Accessible language in assemblies and events.
 - Celebrating student successes in language and progress
 - Using the House programme to encourage language development
 - Tutor time includes exposure to reading, listening and speaking. This can include watching daily news, silent reading, and debates.
- c. LSA
 - Including courses that nurture language (e.g. Debate/ Model UN/ Creative Writing/ Phonics)
 - CLIL strategies support the learning of courses
 - Showcases (e.g., assemblies) and end-goals demonstrate and celebrates language skills
- d. Home- School support
 - Suggested reading lists shared
 - Suggested online resources
 - Parents of students in intervention cohorts receive regular feedback



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Implications for assessment

In Upper School, English proficiency is assessed using a standardised measure, Pearson's Global Score for English (GSE). The linguistic profile of a learner GSE provides serves as a 'passport' that assists teachers in shaping appropriate learning opportunities in English and providing targeted intervention and support across all curriculum areas. GSE is a framework benchmarked against the CEFR and allows for standardised measures of performance in the four skills areas. In Lower School, the Bell Framework is utilised to provide insights into students' level and next steps.

All students are expected to make visible progress with their English language. An improvement of 3 GSE points is standard progress, 4 GSE points is good progress, and 5+ GSE points in one year is seen as excellent progress.

Appendix 2 – Expected GSE levels for US students

Year level	CEFR level course	Expected GSE score at entrance (IELTS)	Expected GSE score at end of the year (IELTS)
6	A2+	36 (4)	41 (4.5)
7	B1	41 (4.5)	47 (5)
8	B1+	47 (5)	53 (5.5)
9	B1+/B2	53 (5.5)	59 (6)
10	B2	59 (6)	65 (6.5)
11	B2/B2+	65 (6.5)	71 (7)
12	B2+/C1	71 (7)	75 (7.5)
13	C1+	75 (7.5)	80 (8+)

Expected English language proficiency levels – 24-25



Appendix 3 – Implications for structures and staffing

The following points are relevant to structures and staffing to support the development of students English language:

- Intervention programmes are utilised for students who need support to access curriculum.
- Staff recruitment and timetabling reflects language needs of students.
- EAL teacher qualifications Minimum CELTA or equivalent.
- Structured CPD programme for Language Support (CLIL).
- All staff are informed of the nature of the school at the interview and are given specific questions related to experience with EAL learners.
- Quality Assurance Learning walks, observations etc. are tied to classroom approaches which support EAL students.
- Positive culture around Language Support (CLIL) is generated through celebrating and sharing good practice in briefing, department meetings, CPD sessions, School communications.
- Student progress with language is recognised, celebrated, and rewarded. House points, certificates, letters home, student lunches, student prizes, etc.



	PRIM	ARY LISTENIA	Name:	Class	First Languag	E.
	CODE	Band A Engaging in highly-scaffolded Issening activities, learning basic classroom language and linking sounds to actions and	Band B Demonstrating an emerging ability to respond verbally in interactions with others	Band C Developing more independence in the use of the basic listening skills needed to engage with learning	Band D Applying listening skills over an increasing range of contexts and functions	Band E Showing little or no disadvantage to English-speaking peers
Early Development	1	Con understand single words or short phrases in familiar contexts Auturn Spring Summer	Can understand everyday expressions aimed at the satisflaction of aimple needs of a concrete type, elow and repeated speech by a sympathetic speaker Autumn Spring Summer	Can follow and instructions and compare with visual or non-verbal models (e.g. Draw a cicle under ster line) Autumn Spring Summer	Can understand an unfamiliar speaker on a familiar topic Autumn Spring Summer	Can meet the larguage damands of group activities and class discussions without support for EAL Accurn Spring Summer
		Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year
	2	Can follow and identify objects, images, figures and people from oral statements or questions with contextual support (e.g. "Which are it o rack?)	Can respond to simply phrased factual questions (e.g. Which thegs use electronity?)	is acquiring topic/subject-specific vocabulary	Can understand most spoken and audio-visual texts, and can identify specific information if questions are given baforehand	Can select key information for a purpose, rejecting irrelevant and animportane information
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
		Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year
	3	Can copyrimpeat some words and/or phrases with teacher/peer modelling in curriculum activities	Can attend for short periods to simple stories and songs with visual acaffolds	Can get the gist of unfamilar English in predictable social and learning smartions (e.g. language of plagmound games, common phrases used by the teacher 'do your best') (check your work')	Can participate confidently in shared texts, such as songs and poetry	Can draw on a range of discourse markers (e.g. expressions like right akor, anyway; or I sold; to help make meaning
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
	_	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year Can understand common, everydar	Academic Year	Academic Year
	4	Can follow and join in routine classroom activities willingly	Can follow day-to-day social communication in English	vocalisation, knows that some works can have more than one meaning, and demonstrates a sentative understanding of vocabulary beyond immediate personal and school experiences	Can interpret meaning and feelings from intonation, volume, stress, repetition and pacing	Can understand humorous references if not culturally laden
		Autumn Spring Summer	Aucumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Sprag Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
not expected to be achieved in order	5	Academic Year Can show comprehension through action and gesture rather than words	Academic Year Can follow narrative/accounts with visual support	Academic Year Can use intotation and stress on words to gain meaning from spoken English (e.g. haar approval or displeasure, or dissinguish between a question and a command)	Academic Year Has access to a wide vocabulary including abstract nours (e.g. hurger; happines) and a growing bank of subject-specific words related to curricular tasks	Academic Year Can understand most of the content when teachers speak clearly at a normal pace
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
	6	Academic Year Can understand a basic, limited range of vocabulary in everyday talk in the classroom	Academic Year Can follow enstructions where the context is obvious and recognise familiar words in spoken texts	Academic Year Can respond appropriately in most unplanned exchanges	Academic Year Can distinguish and follow different trones of spoken languate (e.g. tascher-frosted containt talk, plays, poems, stories)	Academic Year Can follow most autio and video materials
	Ů	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
		Academic Year Can understand simple instructions and curriculum content-related expressions if delivered in clear, slow and repeated	Academic Year Can respond to simply phrased factual questions about lesson content, (e.g. 'is the leafler obout	Academic Year is developing understanding of sentence types (e.g. questions) through word order rather than intenation slows	Academic Year Can follow spoken language used in school events and activities (e.g. assemblies) confidently but some vecabulary and grammatical gaps still	Acatemic Year Has a range of vocabulary, including subject-specific vocabulary, colloqualisms and isloms
	7	speech by a sympachetic speaker Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	animals or about shops?) Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	apparent Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Yoar
	8	Can begin to use limited awareness of grammar to make sense of talk by teachers and peers (e.g. 'went' for past time) Autumn Spring Summer	Can attend actively to the conversations of other English speakers on familiar classroom topics Autumn Spring Summer	May use fest language knowledge of the world as imperant polisin tests and may use other first language speakers allicitizing to confirm understanding Autumn Spring Summer	May ask for clarification and need extra time when participating in complex listening tasks, group performances or class discussions Autumn Spring Summer	Can recognize a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, appreciating shifts in style and register Automat Spring Summer
		Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year	Academic Year
	9	Can sort pictures or objects according to oral instructions	Can use contextual clues to gain meaning from age-level text read onally	Is beginning to respond to different registers (e.g. formal and informal) and understand the importance of listening for different purposes	Can try to follow a talk on unfamiliar topics and give appropriate responses in a classroom and school contexts	Can deal with the language demands of all routines and common attuations in school
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer
	10	Academic Year Can engage in face-to-face interactions, responding to key words and phrases (e.g. responds to everyday greetings)	Academic Year Can understand familiar, simple and reportion upoken English supported by the immediate connect, including simple instructions retying an key words and connect (e.g. 'Come to the mor')	Academic Year Can attend actively to the conversations of other Briddh assisters on familiar toxics when the speech is clear and the pace is regular	Academic Year Is beginning to connectly interpret monation, stress and other culturally- specific non-vertial communication	Academic Year Can respond to different registers appropriately (e.g. motch a formal response to a formal request)
Getting Closer to		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Acadomic Yoar

Appendix 4- Bell Foundation Indicators.



	PRIP	1ARY SPEAKIN	G Name:	Class:	First Languag	00
	CODE	Band A Emerging competence in basic oral expression	Band B Oral competence includes emerging ability to respond verbally in interactions with	Band C Emerging competence in spontaneous expression and communication	Band D Competence in producing more varied and complex speech in a wider range of	Band E Developing competence i fluent, creative use of English
Early Development	1	Can produce single words or shore phrases and give simple greetings	Can answer yea/no questions (e.g. 'Are yea hungyy) and 'choice' questions ('De you wast chicken or passie?')	Can communicate immediate, concrete matters using connected utserances	CONTRACT Can use promer tation that increasingly resembles the English heard around them, losing first. Ingrage features in their promerciation	Can make predictions (i.e. can predict what will happen next it different contexts - e.g. a story or science project and can hyporhe- (e.g. Vennish ins well adapted may to like long exaujt to reproduce a disrefere became extinct) Autumn Spring Summ
\uparrow		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Acadomic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Academic Yo
	2	Can communicate some content about concrete matters during simple, routine, familiar tasks (e.g. 'b blue', 'is crick', 'it'n bel')	Can produce simple, joined-up utterances on known, familiar content, or on topics related to personal opinions and experiences	Begins to notice and can sometimes self- correct irregularities in own speech (e.g. 'carned', good', fie do')	Can answer explicit questions from scories read sloud (e.g. who, what, or where)	Can tell original stories with emerging detail
		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summ
	3	Can respond to visually-supported (e.e. visual timetable, word mar, instruction visuals) questions with one or two words, in a classroom context	Can respond simply so a question relating to an immediate task, while syntax is basic and may contain errors (e.g. omission of verb inflection: "She tay he Me Mathi")	Can use some vocabulary that has been introduced on tasks and is taught sessions	Can give oral presentations on content-based topics approaching age- expected level	Can join in a social or on-task discussion without support or acalfolding for EAL
		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Sumr
	4	Can identify and name some school and everyday objects (e.g. 'toble', 'perkil')	Can repeat basic facts or statements previously learnt (e.g. reciting days of the week, or answering a question like 'Haw many sides has a square?)	Can express likes, dislikes, or preferences with reasons (e.g. Tilde rescent) because I's swet?)	Can retell events in a connected narrative where concert is familiar, using story language where appropriate	Can compare attributes of real objects (e.g., 'X and Y are annihe/officent because
		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Sume
	5	Can make simple statements when prompted and supported by rehearsal (e.g. Boy hos bile)	Can deal with most day-to-day routiles and common situations, and task-related language, where there is contextual support	Can speak to others socially using simple but mostly regular grammatical structures	Can use phrases of time and place to expand information, and longer noun groups to expand descriptions (e.g. in dep barked': Loss night, in the silent, empty park, a dep barked')	Can speak with greater fluency a fewer hesitations, structuring utterances through word order rather than intonation (e.g. 'Do y like?' instead of 'You ike?')
U. Sananan San		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Sumr
not expected to be achieved in order	6	Can use some common adjectives (e.g. 'bg', 'Jsst', 'geor')	Is beginning to use forms (mostly first II] and third [heisheik] person present tense) of the verbaliane. be- de, come, go and make, although not always accurately (eg. 7 going July)	Can take part in role play making some appropriate unscripted contributions	Can produce more complex semences by using a small range of briding elements such as pronoun reference across sentences (e.g. Those a new fixed. Size is Polish)	
1	10	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Auturn Spring Sumr
	7	Academic Year Can ask simple questions about own work (e.g. 'Miss, a sha right?)	Academic Year Can give a short retelling of a story or sequence, perhaps fragmented, and relying on objects and images, but will still have difficulty with basic prepositions	Can ask questions for social and academic purposes	Academic Year Can complete phrases in rhymes. songs, and chants	Acatemic Yi Can prepare and deliver oral presentations on a variety of curriculum topics at age-expects level, although is unlikely to us culturally-specific nuances or idio
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summar	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autumn Spring Sumr
	8	Can make basic needs known so others (e.g. Tinot understand)	Academic Year Accempts to follow and use simple modelled expressions in a small- group settivity (e.g. 'You go first')	Academic Year Makes relevant spontansnuk commerce socially and during tasks	Academic Tear Academic Tear Communicate and predict the meaning of unfamiliar English (i.e. using Innovietige of works or profilese that are shared by first language e.g. rolcano - wikan (Romantin), willian (Polihi): primearing 3 e.g. trangle)	
		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer Academic Year	Autume Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Automn Spring Sumr
	9	Can communicate some lesson content in langer, more correct utterances, supported by scaffolding and rehearcal, (e.g. speaking to a visual framework, copying a model OR answer patterns, e.g. 'It's o tree', 'It's e ferver')	Is beginning to meet the demands of group activities and class interactions without support for EAL (particularly when adults and role model pupils speak clearly and slow down their pace)	Can use English spontaneously, without long passes for internal translation and composition	Can recount information (detailing where, when, who and what in a time sequence) in relation to different subject contexts (e.g. history, fiction)	Can discuss stories, issues, and concepts independently, using range of language structures in range of contexts
		Autumn Spring Summer Academic Yatar	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Sumr
	10	Can pronounce comprehensibly and attempt to approximate English stress and intonation	is beginning to participate independently in class discussions on familiar social and academic topics	Academic Tear	May still explore more complex ideas in first language use first language features when attempting untamilier English constructions (ag. 2 Turkish pupiti accempt at if he har goes home for would have sees the burgher inglet come out. To heate if went, he sees burgher), or may mos first language and English to convey more complex ideas	Can company/contrast Meas an relationships in different subjec contexts
Getting		Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Summer	Autumn Spring Sumr