



PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WITH PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS, DIETARY, LANGUAGE OR CULTURAL NEEDS

1. English as an Additional Language (EAL)

- English as an Additional Language is taught by fully qualified, experienced EAL teachers.
- The emphasis in EAL lessons is on building the student's communicative competence and on developing the skills and linguistic knowledge required for accessing the wider curriculum at Cobham Hall.
- Overseas students take an English language test as part of the admissions process and are tested again on arrival for placement purposes.
- Where possible, students are taught in small groups, but occasionally, for timetabling purposes, or because of the language level of the student, one-to-one lessons may be arranged.
 - The average number of EAL lessons for Key Stage 3 students is two x one-hour sessions per week, timetabled alongside the general mainstream curriculum. In some cases, however, students may be withdrawn from certain subjects to join an intensive programme, until their level of English improves.
 - Key Stage 4 students will have four x one-hour sessions per week, leading to a recognised qualification in English as a Foreign or Second Language.
 - Students with a lower level of English will be expected to attend a higher number of EAL lessons determined by the EAL Department. The minimum language proficiency requirements to attend mainstream lessons are: Y7 to 8 - B1; Y9 to 12: B2. (This does not apply to short stay students.)
 - In the Sixth Form, students develop an in-depth knowledge of grammar structure and vocabulary and acquire an effective range of speaking and writing skills. Students are offered preparation and training for the IELTS Examination at the end of Year 12. IELTS scores are generally required for students wishing to study at a UK or other university where English is the medium of instruction.
- Students are prepared by the EAL Department for PET, FCE, CAE and CPE examinations.
- EAL staff liaise with subject teachers across the school and may offer subject-specific support when necessary, especially in the revision period before summer examinations or trial examinations.
- The EAL Department has a significant responsibility for ensuring that overseas students at Cobham Hall receive appropriate pastoral support. Students benefit from being taught by teachers who are trained to ease the transition into English culture and can recognise the considerable challenges and cultural adaptation required when students are educated away from their home language and environment.
- The EAL Department has a significant responsibility for ensuring that EAL.
- A slot in the induction programme is provided by the EAL lead teacher. This is for new teaching and boarding staff when they commence work at the school. This addresses issues of language and cultural adaptation and provides teachers with strategies for enabling non-native speakers to successfully access the curriculum.

2. Students with special dietary requirements

Students are encouraged to eat healthily and there are both vegetarian, vegan and meat options available at every meal. Food is clearly labelled to facilitate this.

There is a large selection of fresh salads available and jacket potatoes at lunchtime. We provide breakfast, break, lunch, supper and rations in the evenings. Day girls need to sign up for supper. We also provide a packed lunch for school trips. We provide special diets for those students who need them, either because they suffer from an illness or an allergy, it is a religious observance* (see below), or they are trying to manage their weight. Staff also monitor that students have a healthy eating pattern and are consuming sufficient nutrients.

Information about dietary requirements is written on the medical form that each student completes on joining the school; that form is kept on file and checked carefully by the Nurse who then alerts staff via email and this is logged on ISAMS. There is a list in the Staff Room and in the Kitchen which advises all staff about any issues with diet and it is also sent out by email. For those students with special diets, there are photographs of those specific students in the Kitchen on their notice board so they are actually familiar with what the student looks like and when they prepare and hand out the meals it goes to the right student.

Whenever a student with special dietary needs joins the school, the Catering Manager is always an integral part of that conversation. Parents with particular concerns can request, or are encouraged, to have a meeting with the Chef and the Housemaster / Housemistress and the Nurse to communicate any relevant information and to make sure all know what the exact situation is. Equally, Parents should update the School of any changes.

Late lunches and late suppers can be ordered in advance. Late meals that are vegetarian are marked with a capital 'V' to make it clear.

We also help students to observe any religious festivals, for example, Ramadan. During Ramadan, the kitchens in the boarding houses are open at night and early in the morning and food left in the fridges so that they can eat early or late. Meals are kept from supper, if that is what the students require, and then they can eat that meal later. In special circumstances, individual students will have their own monitored eating plan.

3. Providing for students with different religious faiths

There is a prayer room or quiet room available for students and staff to use as appropriate. We accommodate students' requests to attend local churches, mosques or temples. We encourage the celebration of all religious events such as, Christmas, Easter, Ramadan, Eid and Diwali. We hold regular assemblies led by students and staff and visiting speakers to explain and share religion. We encourage all students to respect each other's faith through education and experience. Students can attend Confirmation classes at a local church of their choice. There is an active Bible Study Group which meets regularly after school. Students are invited to attend Church on chill-out Sundays.

In Years 7 to 11, religious education forms part of the Wellbeing programme curriculum with visits to places of worship; in Year 9, discussions on religious beliefs, the existence of God and what truth is and also opportunities to debate in Year 11. There is a Foundation School Chaplain who visits Cobham Hall regularly.

4. Providing for students with different cultural needs

If at all possible, we accommodate individual requests, for example, the wearing of head scarves and the observance of religious and cultural festivals. All students are encouraged, if they wish, to display religious or cultural artefacts in their rooms. They are encouraged to visit each other during the school holidays so they can experience for themselves different cultures and languages. Staff are aware of cultural differences between our students and encourage the sharing of behaviours so that differences can be discussed and explained.

We celebrate through assemblies such events as the Lunar New Year, Moon Festival, Bonfire Night and European festivals. There are also themed dinners so that students get to try foods from different places in the world. There are cultural events where students can cook for each other and take an assembly so that all can learn about the history and traditions of their country. These presentations can involve plays, costumes, songs and dances. Within the Sixth Form Houses, where students are allowed and encouraged to cook for themselves, students do regularly

cook for each other and as part of house events encourage their friends and fellow students to sample new types of food.

Related Policies and Documents

- Policy Statement on Equal Opportunities
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- SEND Policy