

Swan Christian College
CRICOS PROVIDER NO: 00459J

English Language Proficiency Policy

Prior to Enrolment

Students who already learn in an English language medium may not be required to submit additional proof of English levels.

Swan Christian College does not offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and all prospective overseas students are expected to have acquired an English level appropriate to learning in an English language medium. All instructions and text books are in English so a prospective student must have competence in English in order to succeed in achieving his/her educational objectives. Students who are seeking enrolment in Year 10 to 12 should have already reached an Upper Intermediate ESL level prior to commencing. Students commencing in Year 7-9 should have reached a high Intermediate ESL level. and be making sound progress in their academic work. A secondary student needs to achieve a mean standard score of 5.0 - 5.5 or above, depending on their academic year.

Students who have not reached the minimum English level will be required to take additional ELICOS training in a High School Preparation Programme in their home country or undertake an intensive English Course at a centre such as Phoenix Academy located at 223 Vincent Street West Perth until their English levels have improved sufficiently prior to commencing their course of study at Swan Christian College. For students whose first language is other than English we may require the student to undertake English Language Testing to be conducted by an independent agency, in Australia or overseas, nominated by the College.

The College will accept test results provided by Australian Education Assessment Services www.aeas.com.au. Testing Centres, the cost of testing and standards required for entry can be found on the AEAS website.

The Principal will also assess the student during an enrolment interview once the student arrives in Australia.

The report provided to the College will be used to assess the student's English language ability and the suitability of our program. At this point the Dean of Studies would assess which year level is appropriate for the student. Upon the basis of this report we shall advise whether we are able to proceed with enrolment.

If the intention is that a student joins the College for a defined period as a cultural experience, the requirements for language testing may be varied. In the past we have had overseas students join Swan Christian College for periods ranging from 6 to 12 months so that they might experience life in Australia before they returned home either to complete their secondary education or begin tertiary studies.

Further assistance in Literacy is catered for in the following ways:

1. Additional classes using the *Cracking the ABC Code*. It is based on the learning and application of phonic blends and simple rules of language. It encourages students to understand why words are constructed certain ways and apply simple rules to help them decode and construct language.
2. If a student has been in the country for less than 12 months, additional funding is available through AISWA to address specific Literacy needs in order to help the student 'get up to speed'.

Should additional ESL needs be identified which are not being met by the student's IEP or the programs available, including those offered by the College's Special Needs Coordinator, further assistance is available and is to be obtained from the AISWA ESL specialist staff.