HUME CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE
EAL POLICY – YEAR 7-12
(ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE)

RATIONALE

Hume Central Secondary College aims to meet the learning needs of students who come from a language background other than English and who have enrolled in an Australian or English speaking school under the following criteria:

- At years 7-10 have been in Australia less than five years
- At year 11 have been in Australia for less than six years
- At year 12 have been in Australia for less than seven years.

SCOPE

- To promote equality of opportunity for all learners for whom English is an additional language
- To deliver a broad, balanced curriculum which reflects the needs of students for whom English is an additional language
- To ensure EAL pupils reach their full potential.

POLICY

It is important to note that the learning and wellbeing needs of EAL students are varied. Achievement and success at school will depend on a number of factors: length of schooling in Australia, length of uninterrupted schooling, previous academic success, trauma experienced, family separation issues and other circumstances.

The EAL programs at Hume Central Secondary College need to be well informed and responsive to the range of needs of all learners. EAL students need optimum teaching and learning conditions to build English language skills in order to reach their full potential and to achieve success. It is necessary therefore to maximise resources available to EAL students by:

- Adopting a whole school approach to EAL programming and provision
- Using trained teachers in all EAL classes
- Aiming for lower class sizes in all EAL classes. EAL students may also receive EAL instruction in mainstream English classes, but participate with their year level for all other subjects
- Providing Professional Development and support to all staff through PLCs, Campus Staff meetings, Campus Learning Team Meetings and using EAL leaders, teachers and regional staff as a resource to develop staff's knowledge of EAL pedagogy and their skills for teaching EAL learners
- Aiming to facilitate communication with recent arrived EAL students and their families by employing Multicultural Education Aides (MEA) and Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) who will work closely with EAL students, teachers and parent/guardians (under the guidance of the EAL PLC Leader)
- Promoting academic achievement by grouping EAL students according to age appropriate level rather than English language level
- Provide students with access to resources which are age appropriate, at an appropriate language level, and are linguistically and culturally appropriate
- Ensuring that language and literacy are taught within the context of all subjects
- Ensuring that learners not yet fluent in spoken English or the language of the curriculum receive planned support for their oracy and literacy skills, through MEA support, during Homework Club or targeted classroom instruction
- Actively liaising with parent/carers to help them to support their children's learning
- Facilitating parent/carer access to school life by providing dual language information and bilingual support especially for parent/carer evenings, school events and workshops, and to monitor parental involvement.

REQUIREMENTS:

All EAL students enrolling at Hume Central Secondary College need to provide the following documentation:

a) Passport/Visa

b) Official Documents of resident status in Australia.

c) Reports that show the level of attainment and language of instruction in their home country

Enrolment in EAL is available only to students who meet the EAL eligibility criteria. Our College's expectation is that EAL students enrolling in VCE should be at Level C3 in Writing at the end of Year 10. Students at lower stages will be strongly encouraged to further develop their skills before proceeding into VCE. EAL Teachers will advise Team Leaders and Campus Principals of individual students' ability to satisfactorily perform at a particular year level; this will inform decisions about those students' promotion into the following year level.

The College EAL Policy also reflects the following VCAA Requirements as outlined in the VCE Administrative Handbook:

VCAA Requirements

A student may be eligible for EAL status if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. A student will not have resided in Australia or another predominantly English-speaking country for a total period of 7 years or more before 1 January in the year the student will be undertaking Units 3 and 4 EAL*
   and
   has not enrolled in schools where English has been the student's major language of instruction for a total period of 7 years or more over the period of their education^.
2. A student is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person whose first or home language is not English.
3. A student is Deaf or hard of hearing, with hearing loss of 60 decibels or greater in the better ear and is able to produce evidence of a hearing test administered by the Australian Government Hearing Services Program, or an equivalent body, not more than 2 calendar years before the year of enrolment in a Unit 3–4 sequence
   and
   is identified by a Visiting Teacher Service as being eligible for assistance on the basis of being Deaf or hard of hearing or is enrolled in a school for the Deaf and hard of hearing, or a recognised unit or facility for the Deaf and hard of hearing attached to a regular school.
4. A student's first or home language is AUSLAN or an international equivalent.

Note that:

* The period of 7 years is to be calculated cumulatively. The calculation of time spent in Australia is made from the initial date of arrival as a resident of Australia plus any previous periods of time spent living in Australia or any predominantly English-speaking country. Time spent out of Australia during school holidays must be included in the accumulation towards the 7 years because there would have been no disruption to education during these periods.

^ Principals (or delegates) must sight the student's overseas school reports to confirm that the language of instruction was not English during this period.

Special Circumstances
If the student is from a non-English-speaking background, the following special circumstances could be considered by the VCAA in determining the student's eligibility for EAL status:

- minimal or no primary school education
- material interruptions to schooling during primary years, particularly if there were changes to the language of instruction
- material interruptions to schooling after arrival in Australia.

Interpreter

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hume Central SC on 03 9066 3600.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed as required or due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Policy last reviewed	October 2026
Approved by	College Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027