

We offer a warm welcome to all our families from around the world who are part of our St. Crispin's community. There are more than fifty-two languages spoken at St. Crispin's and nineteen per cent of our students speak English as an additional language.

All our pupils need to feel safe, accepted and valued in order to learn. For students who are learning English as an additional language, this includes recognising and valuing their home language and background. As a school, we are aware that bilingualism is a strength and that EAL pupils have a valuable contribution to make.

In order to provide EAL students with the appropriate support to suit them and their needs we assess language proficiency and discuss prior learning with parents to ascertain each individual's educational background. We use The Bell Foundation to assess our students and use this information to create a programme of support and intervention, if needed, tailored to the individual student's needs.

Some of the support strategies we use on a regular basis include:

- Group interventions during the school day with specialist EAL staff;
- Peer-mentoring from our Student Council students;
- Adult support in class;
- Various translation tools;
- Homework club in our Learning Support department;
- A wide variety of classroom strategies through Quality First Teaching such as vocabulary lists, visual stimuli, buddying with other first language speakers, etc.

*Best practice for all EAL students is to be in the classroom where they will have the maximum exposure to English and opportunities to engage with their peers.*

### **Support for parents who are new to the UK**

The following link provides lots of guidance for parents on key information to help understand the English Education system. This is available in the 22 most commonly used languages in UK schools. *'Helping children learn'* and *'About the English Education System'*

[Parental Involvement - The Bell Foundation \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/)

### **Support and Wellbeing for our EAL families**

Mother Tongue focuses on providing counselling for speakers of other languages, in their home language.

Mother Tongue counselling service in Reading: <https://www.movertongue.org.uk/>

Reading Refugee Support Group: <https://rrsg.org.uk/>

Their website includes wellbeing guidance: <https://rrsg.org.uk/mental-health-wellbeing/>

## Sources of support and information for families from Hong Kong

We are aware that there are approximately 500 children from Hong Kong and their families that have joined Wokingham schools between September 2020 and end of September 2021 and we are continuing to see new arrivals since September 2022.

The UK Government have provided welcome pack available in English and Traditional Chinese, which can be found here:

Welcome Pack: [English](#)

Welcome Pack: [Traditional Chinese](#)

This includes healthcare information, as well as lots of other guidance.

There is an online welcome hub for the south east, which provides information for families: <https://southeastspm.org.uk/hk-bnos/information-for-people-from-hong-kong/>

(translation into Traditional Chinese function top right)

Video in Cantonese about healthcare in the UK: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/information-for-new-residents/>