



GEMS International School

English Language

Learning (ELL) Program

PYP Section

Philosophy

GEMS International School is an inclusive school. We celebrate diversity and welcome all students and work closely with families to develop an effective support program to minimize any identified barriers and support progress towards independence in learning.

Students are assessed on entry to ascertain if students have the required level of **English language competency** to be able to access the curriculum independently. Where students are not yet demonstrating the English skills necessary to function within the classroom independently, both socially and academically, enrollment in the English Language Learning (**ELL**) program will be required.

The ELL program is delivered by specialist teachers who work in coordination with the homeroom and specialist teachers to accelerate English language acquisition and support the student to move towards independence in learning. The ELL team aims to empower students to learn the English skills necessary to function academically, thrive socially, and grow as multilingual global citizens.

How are students identified?

Students are identified through a triangulation of data. This includes;

- [WIDA assessment](#)
- CAT4 (measure of academic potential)
- school reports
- personal interview

Students working below a **Level 4** on the WIDA assessment will be considered in need of English language support. Should students be working above WIDA 3.5, additional data will be considered. The WIDA report will be shared with parents.

When do students exit the program?

The length of time the student is in the program varies depending on the student and individual needs. Some students will make rapid progress and may only need support for a short amount of time. Others need more intensive support for up to 2 academic years.

The ELL teacher in coordination with the homeroom teacher will review internal and external progress data and discuss exit from the program on a termly basis. Should a student be struggling to make progress, a referral to the inclusion team may be considered.

The Graduated Approach to Provision

There are two levels of provision for the ELL program.

Level 2 - Intensive English Language Learning Support Program

The Level 2 program is delivered by specialist ELL teachers and comprises of the following components;

- direct language intervention sessions
- collaboration with class teachers
- support within the classroom to assist students with access to the curriculum

In the **ELL Language Intervention sessions** students receive small group instruction with a specialist teacher. This is focused on language development and

may also include some pre-teaching and revisiting of language to support access within the classroom. These sessions will take place in a specialist classroom.

In class support is designed to support the students in applying their language skills in context. The ELL team works closely with classroom teachers to collaborate on the modification of tasks to enable students to access the mainstream curriculum and teachers may provide additional direct support within the classroom.

Level 1 - In class support and monitoring

Students who are working above WIDA 4, but are not yet completely proficient, will be monitored by the ELL team in collaboration with the homeroom teacher. This includes students who have recently exited from the program.

Additional Fees

Level 1 support is provided as part of the standard school service.

Level 2 support is costed at an additional **12,000 AED** per annum, payable termly in advance.

The level of support is reviewed on a termly basis and next steps in learning will be outlined in a termly Progress Report.

We look forward to working with you closely as a family and ensuring that your child has the best opportunity of success.