



GEMS International School

English Language Learning

(ELL) Program

Secondary 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 they 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

Grade Level ELL Requirements.

GRADES 6 to 9 REQUIREMENTS

For Grades 6 to 9, 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. Students approaching the end of Grade 9, will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

GRADE 10 REQUIREMENTS

WIDA level	Restriction due to language barrier
4.5 - 6.0	No restriction
4.0 - 4.5	Available options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELL can be offered as temporary optional support during Language Acquisition or electives.• Students can be monitored free of charge (level 1). If content areas become too difficult for the student to manage independently, the school can require the student to enroll in the ELL program until sufficient progress is made.
3.5 - 4.0	WIDA + interview to determine need: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 2 ELL Program - exemption from Language Acquisition in order to work on English skills. Exemption can be made for electives on an individual basis as needed.

3.4 or less	<p>Consider entry to Grade 9 and intensive ELL program to support, taking into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic ability reflected in CAT4 and previous school reports. ● Aptitude reflected in confidential references. ● Previous enrollment in an academically rigorous curriculum that will have embedded principles of critical thinking needed for IB. ● Ensure that parents are aware that the student must attain language level 4.5 or above to be considered for entry into Grade 11
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GRADE 11 REQUIREMENTS

WIDA level	Restriction due to language barrier
5	No restriction
4.5 – 4.9	Interview to consider which pathway would be accessible taking a holistic look at the data.
4.4 or less	<p>Consider entry to G10 and intensive ELL program to support, taking into account the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic ability are reflected in CAT4 and previous school reports. ● Aptitude reflected in CR. ● Previous enrollment in an academically rigorous curriculum that will have embedded principles of critical thinking needed for IB. ● Ensure that parents are aware that the student must attain language level 4.5 or above to be considered for entry into G11.

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 extensive language support until students achieve the required language proficiency.

The ELL teacher in coordination with the grade level team and subject teachers, where appropriate, 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.

In order to exit the program, there are several data points that are considered:

- Students must meet WIDA score requirements for grade level
- MAP scores
- CAT4 scores
- Report card grades
- Grade level team feedback

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;

- Temporary exemption from language acquisition (Spanish/ French) so students can focus on improving English skills.
- ELL lessons can be provided during English classes, as required.
- Temporary subject exemptions can be provided on a case by case basis.
- Collaboration with subject 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 subject teachers. This includes students who have recently exited from the program.

Students who have exited the program will be monitored for one year post exit. This is to ensure that students can still access the curriculum as content becomes more rigorous each year. Students may be required to re-enter the ELL program if referred by other subject teachers.

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.