

# Information for parents of newly arrived students who need to learn English

## English language schools and centres

The Department of Education and Training provides English language teaching programs for students newly enrolled in Victorian government schools who need to learn English. Students of school age can enrol in new arrivals programs, which take place or are organised through English language schools or centres.

These programs aim to teach students the English language skills they need in order to study in primary or secondary schools.

English language schools and centres are located in the Melbourne metropolitan area. They provide full time courses for students. They cater for both primary and secondary school students, up to Year 10.

English language schools cater for students from the Prep year to Year 10. English language centres are located in mainstream secondary schools in the Melbourne area. English language centres cater for secondary students in Years 7-10.

English language schools and centres:

- have teachers who specialise in teaching English
- have small class sizes of around 13 students
- provide train and bus travel passes for eligible students according to Departmental guidelines.

Sometimes primary-aged students who cannot travel to an English language school or centre are able to attend intensive English language classes at a local primary school for up to four days a week. The students participate in their own school program when not in the intensive English class.

There are also new arrivals programs in Geelong, Shepparton and Mildura.

## Who is eligible for the program?

- All students new to learning English, who have been in Australia less than 6 months, and who are permanent residents (less than 18 months for Prep aged students).
- Some students new to learning English, who have been in Australia less than 6 months, who are temporary residents (less than 18 months for Prep aged students).

Newly arrived students who need to learn English may be eligible outside these guidelines. Contact your local English language school or centre to see whether your child is eligible to attend a New Arrivals Program.

Note: to enrol in a Victorian government school your child must be at least five years of age by 30 April in the year of starting school. Children between six and fifteen years of age must attend school or be receiving an approved, alternative tuition program. Students usually spend seven years in primary school (Prep to Year 6) before transferring to a secondary school.

## How do students enrol in the new arrivals program?

Students can enrol directly into an English language school or centre, or can be referred by another government school.

## How long is the program?

The program is usually about six months long (two school terms). Students who need extra time may stay for up to 12 months (four school terms).

## What curriculum is taught?

The curriculum taught at English language schools and centres aims to prepare students for further study in primary and secondary schools. Students are:

- taught English through subject areas such as mathematics and science, and the curriculum is based on what is taught in mainstream schools
- taught the English needed to function in the community
- helped to settle into their new country and to learn about a new school system
- given special assistance if they have had interrupted schooling, or if they need to learn to read and write.

Students are placed into classes according to their age and English language skills.

At the end of their English language school or centre program, students are helped to choose a mainstream school and are assisted to move to their new school.

## Student welfare

English language schools and centres can help students to access a range of support services such as medical and dental services.

## Family support

Information sessions about the school system in Victoria are offered at English language schools and centres. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their children's progress with their teachers, with the support of interpreters. Parents are welcome to contact their child's school at any time to discuss any questions or problems they may have.

For more information about English language programs for newly arrived students, contact your nearest English language school or centre or new arrivals program:

	Telephone Number	Address	Primary (P) Secondary (S)
Blackburn English Language School	(03) 9803 4022	120 Eley Road, Burwood East 3151	P, S
Collingwood English Language School	(03) 9419 7633	19 Cambridge Street, Collingwood 3066	P, S
Noble Park English Language School	(03) 9546 9578	21–35 Thomas Street, Noble Park 3174	P, S
Western English Language School	(03) 9311 9325	46 South Road, Braybrook 3019	P, S
Hume Central English Language Centre	(03) 9302 6011	64–70 Blair Street, Broadmeadows	S
Brunswick English Language Centre	(03) 9383 6133	47 Dawson Street, Brunswick 3056	S
Glen Eira English Language	(03) 9572 5877	76 Booran Road, Caulfield 3162	S
Westall English Language Centre	(03) 9546 1732	88–128 Rosebank Avenue, Clayton South 3169	S
Geelong English Language Program	(03) 5278 3548	Various locations	P, S
Shepparton New Arrivals Programs	(03) 5822 2266	Various locations	P, S
Mildura English Language Program	(03) 5051 1333	Various locations	P, S