



Classes for Tour Groups

Large School Groups (of Any Age) or Large Groups of Students of One Nationality

Groups of students who come from the same high school, or large groups of students of one nationality and from one agent, will usually be taught in closed classes. If numbers are large, the group will be divided into classes based on ability. A pre-test can be sent to the school prior to arrival at RELA. This test is sent back to RELA and graded by a RELA staff member. Classes are divided on the basis of these results. The school is sent a class list for approval. If the teachers feel that any student has been placed in the wrong class for whatever reason then changes can be made.

Any student whose language level is very much higher or lower than the rest of their group, or any student aged over 18, will be integrated into a general class at the appropriate level.

Small groups

If a group is small enough, then we will try to integrate them into our regular programme, if doing so will not be detrimental to existing classes or the tour participants.

On or before arrival at school, all students aged 13 and over will be tested to find the appropriate class for their English level. If a number of students are at a similar level, then they may be taught together in a closed class. This depends on the number of students we have in the general school. We cannot have large numbers of young short term students coming into our regular classes.

Therefore the school reserves the right, if necessary, to

- a) create closed classes of the same nationality at a similar level of English***
- b) create classes of short-term holiday students who may be mostly of the same nationality.***

Students aged 12 and under:

Students aged 12 and under may be placed in a Young Learners' class. These classes are designed for young learners and may contain a mixture of abilities. Students aged under 13 will not usually be placed into our general classes unless there are exceptional circumstances, or if it is judged to be in their best interests due to their level and needs. If there are a large number of young students here all at once, then they will be tested and the classes may be split into a higher and lower class.

Afternoon Programme:

If the afternoon classes are requested at the time of quoting, rather than an Activities programme, they will probably be taught in closed classes in the afternoons if the group is too large to be integrated.



RELA Tour Group Programme.

The following is an overview of a typical 2-3 week course of study for those students in a closed tour group class. This programme also includes an afternoon activities programme.

Morning Classes Monday – Friday 8.30-12.00

The morning programme for short term study groups at RELA focuses on increasing the students' *fluency* and *confidence* in communicative English. The emphasis is on *speaking, listening and pronunciation*; on functional, natural language for genuine communication; and on active, engaging tasks and activities that appeal to young people. We use a lot of 'information gap' activities which encourage the students to use English in order to finish the tasks successfully. We also use a lot of up to date songs to help develop listening skills through rhythm and repetition. We pay close attention to pronunciation and word stress, as we have found through experience that these issues are often a barrier to successful communication for students who have had little experience of an English speaking environment.

The course of study also includes some development of *reading and writing* skills, focusing on topics that interest the individual students and involving the students discussing ideas of interest and producing oral and written work that is of personal interest to them. We raise awareness of grammar points and aim to improve *accuracy* in our lessons without teaching long and complex grammar rules overtly – i.e. every task has a language point and we encourage the students to be *active* learners, noticing and pointing out features of the language in the texts that we use and discussing them. We aim always to have the students *active and engaged* - not sitting passively while the teacher talks, but doing tasks while the teacher monitors, gives help, guidance, correction and feedback.

We try to get to know each group of learners and then cater for their individual interests and tastes as much as possible. Some of the topics that we often include in our lessons, because they are usually very popular, are: English language popular culture – the movies, the arts, the internet and music; New Zealand food and leisure activities; cultural differences and similarities; useful language for home stays and for going out and about in an English speaking country; talking about people - friends, families, appearances and personalities.

We use a wide range of up to date materials including books designed especially for short courses and books aimed at teenagers and young adults. We also source material from the internet and use supplementary texts that focus on developing vocabulary and communicative skills. We have developed a large and varied range of authentic and graded materials which enable us to pick and choose whole lessons from a variety of topics and language areas once we have evaluated the group of students and understand more about their particular needs and interests.

We assure you that we have all our students' best interests at heart and that we strive to be flexible and to adapt what we choose to do to suit the individuals in our care. We value our short term groups very highly and endeavour to make each programme an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone involved