

Trinity Young Learner Pathway to English language

“Learning this way helps to instil excellence in the mastery of English.”

Sally O’Keeffe, MA Applied Linguistics, teacher and teacher-trainer, Spain

Trinity’s Young Learner Pathway offers a flexible route towards mastery of the English language, starting at an early age with an introduction to language learning through music and performance. Building on this foundation, young learners can then go on to develop their oral communication skills further before developing the integrated reading, writing, speaking and listening skills they will need later in their life.

Trinity
Stars
Awards

GESE
Qualifications

ISE
Qualifications

Infant school

Primary school

Secondary school

Trinity’s Young Learner Pathway

Children at infant school start out by participating in **Trinity Stars: Young Performers in English** group awards. Then, when they begin primary school, they prepare for Trinity’s **GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English**. In this way children can improve their oral communication skills by encountering and using English language effectively from the very start of their learning journey.

Introducing children to language learning with Trinity Stars makes learning English fun and prepares

them to take the big step from group assessment to individual assessment and recognition of their achievements through formal qualifications.

Starting with Trinity Stars and GESE provides a firm foundation of initial language skills from which to develop integrated reading, writing, speaking and listening skills at higher levels in preparation for **ISE: Integrated Skills in English** qualifications (levels B1-C2 on the CEFR) in readiness for university, international mobility and employment.

Infant school

Trinity Stars: Young Performers in English Awards

Trinity Stars is designed to encourage the teaching and learning of English through drama, music and performance.

Children learn songs, poems, plays or stories in English and prepare to perform them. Preparing for the project and the performance supports the children's learning and builds their confidence and communicative skills. Receiving a **Trinity Stars Award** for their achievement motivates children to learn and progress.



Awarding achievement

Trinity Stars projects culminate in a group assessment leading to Trinity College London certificates for both the children and their teachers. Children receive individual recognition from a **Trinity Stars Expert** who presents a **Trinity Stars medal** to each child in acknowledgement of linguistic achievement at the earliest stage of language learning.

There are many benefits to learning language through performance activities, including:

- ▶ Using language in context to make vocabulary more meaningful
- ▶ Improved memory of the language learnt and increased confidence in using it

Trinity
Stars
Awards

Teacher support

Trinity Stars is specifically designed to support teachers and classroom teaching. We offer free teacher support including:

- ▶ An extensive range of online resources dedicated to supporting teaching and preparation for Trinity Stars projects, available at trinitycollege.com/trinitystars
- ▶ A 30-minute **face-to-face feedback** session for teachers with a **Trinity Stars Expert**, giving the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon classroom preparation and the performance itself

How it works

It is simple to get started with **Trinity Stars: Young Performers in English** –

1. Teachers prepare children for their project and presentation with the help of a Guide for Teachers and online resources – developing the children's language skills and the teachers' own professional skills
2. School requests a visit from a Trinity Stars Expert, who will review how the children have developed their project and observe their performance and use of English
3. The Trinity Stars Expert stamps the children's project work, and after the group performance, presents each child with a Trinity Stars medal. Every child in the group receives the same level of award
4. The Trinity Stars Expert leads a 30-minute reflective session with the teachers and provides feedback and suggestions for using performance in language teaching at this level
5. Up to six weeks later Trinity issues Trinity Stars certificates – showing the name of the child and the name of their group
6. Teachers who prepare children and take part in the feedback session receive a certificate from Trinity for participating in a Trinity Stars post-performance reflective session

“Preparing for Trinity Stars is a fun project with a prize at the end.”

Concepción Gonzalez,
co-owner Hello English, Spain

Primary school

GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

Trinity's **GESE** exams are one-to-one, face-to-face assessments of speaking and listening skills with a Trinity examiner.

With 12 grades available **from Initial to Advanced**, the exams at Initial stage are 5-7 minutes long and focus on building the child's confidence and motivation to communicate in English.



Individual assessments

To assess a candidate's abilities at **Initial stage (GESE Grades 1-3)** the examiner uses a variety of different visual materials reflecting real-life situations to help them participate in a **simple and authentic unscripted conversation**. It is a test of competencies using spontaneous language that reflects real life, and helps to prepare young learners for the future from a very early age.

Every successful candidate receives a **GESE certificate** from Trinity College London. To celebrate their students' success, many schools organise certificate awarding ceremonies to which they invite friends and family.

As children advance with GESE exams, progress is typically characterised by:

- ▶ Increased evidence of communicative abilities
- ▶ Use of more demanding language functions, grammar, lexis and phonology
- ▶ Increased candidate independence showing they can initiate and take control of interactions

GESE
Qualifications

Teacher support

To support teaching and learning, Trinity provides a wide range of **free resources**, including:

- ▶ **Exam information** and evaluation criteria, teacher guides, classroom activities and sample videos, together with administrative support and training for schools that are new to Trinity
- ▶ A unique post-exam **examiner feedback** session for teachers about the performance of their student group, which helps to identify strengths and areas for improvement

How it works

It is simple to get started with **GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English** –

1. Book an introductory meeting with Trinity
2. Review current teaching approaches and the communicative strategies used in each class to ensure smooth mapping for GESE preparation
3. Prepare students for the GESE exams using free online teaching and learning resources at trinitycollege.com/GESE
4. Fix a convenient exam date in advance, with plenty of preparation time
5. Enter candidate details online before the closing deadline according to the instructions provided

6. Follow the simple regulations for the day of the exam
7. Attend a feedback session with a Trinity examiner
8. Organise a certificate awarding ceremony for students, friends and family*

* Talk to us beforehand if you would like a Trinity representative to attend

GESE is available at 12 grades from pre-A1 to C2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). All GESE graded exams, except pre-A1 (Grade 1), and all ISE exams are regulated qualifications and have been formally calibrated to the CEFR.

Secondary school and beyond

GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English

ISE: Integrated Skills in English

There's a Trinity English language qualification for every level of proficiency from beginner to advanced. School students typically either continue to progress upwards through Trinity's **GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English**, or they move on to a qualification that also includes reading and writing – Trinity's **ISE: Integrated Skills in English**. Preparing for ISE equips students with the skills needed for university or employment.

Speak to your **Trinity representative** to find out more about preparing students for Trinity assessments at your school.



Taking the first steps with Trinity

Contact us to initiate your first steps onto the Trinity Young Learner Pathway

- ▶ Email us to request a meeting. Find details at trinitycollege.com/worldwide
- ▶ Register with us (no fee) as a registered exam centre at trinitycollege.com/register
- ▶ Request an introduction to Trinity and training for teachers

ISE
Qualifications

“Children learning English the Trinity way lose their fear and feel confident to use their new language skills in real-life situations outside the classroom.”

Silvia Arias, parent, Spain

Trinity College London is a leading international exam board and independent education charity that specialises in the assessment of communicative and performance skills including music, drama, and English language. With over **850,000 candidates a year** in more than **60 countries worldwide**, Trinity qualifications are specifically designed to help students progress.

trinitycollege.com

Note: Trinity Stars is suitable for children aged 3-12 and GESE qualifications are suitable for learners of all ages from 5 years and above. Trinity's GESE and ISE qualifications carry the ALTE Q-Mark and are approved by UKVI as Secure English Language Tests in the UK.

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