


***To live and learn in harmony,
Caring for each other;
Treating everybody as a sister and a brother;
Reflecting Christ's actions and His message too,
By striving for excellence in all that we do***



SCHOOL POLICY FOR ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Persons responsible: Head Teacher & SENDCO

Date Adopted: October 2023

Date of Policy Review: October 2024

1. INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the school's approach to identification and meeting the needs of pupils who are classified as having English as an additional language. This policy applies to all pupils, including those in the Early Years.

2. DEFINITION:

In defining EAL we have adopted the following definition: 'An EAL pupil is a pupil whose first language is not English. This encompasses pupils who are fully bilingual and all those at different stages of learning English.'

EAL pupils may be:

1. Newly arrived from a foreign country and school;
2. Newly arrived from a foreign country, but an English speaking school;
3. Born abroad, but moved to the UK at some point before starting school; or
4. Born in the UK, but in a family where the main language is not English.

EAL pupils will need varying levels of provision.

3. RECOGNITION:

Our school seeks to ensure that all pupils are enabled to have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. English is best learnt through the curriculum and EAL pupils should be encouraged to play a full part in all learning opportunities.

EAL learners make the best progress within a whole school context, where pupils are educated with their peers.

The school environment promotes language development through the rich use of language.

The school structure, pastoral care and overall ethos help EAL pupils integrate into the school whilst valuing diversity.

Bilingualism is viewed as a positive and life enriching asset.

Parents and prospective parents will be provided with the particulars of our EAL provision.

4. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Identification and assessment is carried out with the purpose of providing the most appropriate provision for each pupil.

In assessing the nature and extent of the pupil's grasp of English the following methods may be used:

1. Information from the application form;
2. Information from interviews with parents/guardians;
3. Information from initial assessment papers; and/
4. Information from the previous school.

Whenever possible, assessment is undertaken as a partnership between the class teacher, EAL Coordinator, parents/guardians and pupil.

In assessment of EAL pupils, competence in English is categorised on a five point scale.

5. EAL CLASSIFICATION CODES

The Department for Education uses the following EAL classification codes. These are the reference points for pupils on the EAL register.

A = NEW TO ENGLISH

The pupil may:

- Use first language for learning and other purposes.
- Remain completely silent in the classroom.
- Be copying/repeating some words or phrases.
- Understand some everyday expressions in English but may have minimal or no literacy in English.
- Needs a considerable amount of EAL support

B = EARLY AQUISION

The pupil may:

- Follow day-to-day social communication in English and participate in learning activities with support.
- Begin to use spoken English for social purposes.
- Understand simple instructions and can follow narrative/accounts with visual support.
- Have developed some skills in reading and writing.
- Have become familiar with some subject specific vocabulary.
- Still needs a significant amount of EAL support to access curriculum

C = DEVELOPING COMPETENCE

The pupil may:

- Participate in learning activities with increasing independence.
- Be able to express self orally in English, but structural inaccuracies are still apparent.
- Be able to follow abstract concepts and more complex written English.
- Literacy will require ongoing support, particularly for understanding text and writing.
- Requires ongoing EAL support to access curriculum fully
- Oral English developing well, enabling successful engagement in activities across the curriculum.
- Can read and understand a wide variety of texts.
- Written English may lack complexity and contain occasional evidence of errors in structure.

- Needs some support to access subtle nuances of meaning, to refine English usage, and to develop abstract vocabulary.
- Needs some/occasional EAL support to access complex curriculum material and tasks
- Can operate across the curriculum to a level of competence equivalent to a pupil who uses English as first language.
- Operates without EAL support across the curriculum.

D = COMPETENT

- Oral English developing well, enabling successful engagement in activities across the curriculum.
- Can read and understand a wide variety of texts.
- Written English may lack complexity and contain occasional evidence of errors in structure.
- Needs some support to access subtle nuances of meaning, to refine English usage, and to develop abstract vocabulary.
- Needs some/occasional EAL support to access complex curriculum material and tasks

E = FLUENT

- Can operate across the curriculum to a level of competence equivalent to a pupil who uses English as first language.
- Operates without EAL support across the curriculum

6. PROVISION

- Provision for learning needs is best expressed in terms of 'learning support' - an umbrella term indicating the provision for a variety of types and levels of need, including SEN, EAL and Higher Achieving Pupils.
- This provision encompasses curriculum planning, support for individual pupils or groups of pupils within the classroom in terms of differentiation, support for those responsible for teaching these pupils, and supplementary provision.
- EAL pupils will be provided with opportunities to make good progress.
- EAL children in the Early Years will be immersed in the spoken English language through verbal and environmental print but will be provided with reasonable steps to learn and play in their home language.
- We will support language development at home and support children in reaching a good standard in English.
- Where appropriate, we will assess understanding in the home language in order to inform an assessment judgement in the early stages of English language learning.
- Classroom teachers have responsibility for ensuring that pupils can participate in lessons and will have awareness of good practice in providing for EAL pupils within the classroom setting.
- Our school aims to address the needs of EAL pupils within the classroom. However, there will be times when it will be appropriate for children to be withdrawn from lessons to receive focused support.

7. ORGANISATION

The effective delivery of these aims depends on planning, teaching strategies, resources and homework

A. PLANNING SHOULD

- Identify EAL learners
- Support staff be briefed as to their level of achievement in English
- Show opportunities for speaking and listening

- Have clear focus on language and subject content of the lesson
- Show flexible grouping strategies that recognize the learning needs and the language development needs of EAL learners
- Monitor, review and evaluate to determine the extent to which pupils have achieved their language objectives as well as their learning objectives
- Use ongoing assessment data to inform future planning and teaching of both language and subject content

B. TEACHING METHODS AND STRATEGIES SHOULD

- Draw on pupils' prior knowledge and experience and teachers should demonstrate an awareness of language and subject content of the lesson
- Include strategies that help EAL learners to internalize and apply new subject – specific language
- Use a rich background of contextual support provided to reinforce language learning and facilitate pupil participation in the lesson e.g. objects/artifacts, pictures, photographs and symbols, lists of key words and phrases, prompt sheets and writing frames, diagrams charts and graphs, a combination of expressions, gestures, tone of voice, stress, body language
- Provide lots of opportunities for the key vocabulary spoken and written to be clearly modeled and for pupils to use it in the context of the topic
- Monitor pupil understanding regularly

C. CLASS RESOURCES SHOULD

- Support the learning of language and subject content e.g. glossaries, personal vocabulary books, visual aids, use of ICT to provide interactive learning

D. HOMEWORK SHOULD

- Be clearly explained in terms of length, content, structure and main points
- Have language and subject learning objectives reinforced
- Have support and additional materials provided to facilitate independent work

8. MONITORING AND RECORDING

A. Class teacher

- It is the responsibility of the class teacher (with the support of the EAL Coordinator) to maintain up to date records of EAL pupils in their class whilst they are in their care.
- An Individual Pupil Profile is maintained for all EAL pupils assessed as having a competency in English at Stage A, B or C. This is reviewed on a termly basis.
- Have high expectations of EAL learners whilst being aware of the barriers to learning which they have to overcome

B. EAL/SEN Co-ordinator

- Where there is no specific EAL Coordinator, this role is fulfilled by the SENCO.
- The EAL Coordinator collates information and arranges a baseline for EAL pupils.
- A register of EAL pupils (identifying stages) is maintained centrally by the school and monitored by the EAL Coordinator.
- Monitor and assess the development of EAL learners in KS1 during year 2 and thereafter for pupils whose attainment is cause for concern in consultation with the Literacy Co-ordinator
- Provide EAL support speaking and listening sessions for those who have not acquired everyday communication fluency by the end of KS1
- Distinguish and address EAL issues from SEN issues

- Provide support and advice with class teachers alongside the Literacy co-ordinator

C. The role of the Literacy/ Numeracy and other subject co-ordinators

- Monitor the progress of EAL learners through existing Literacy/subject monitoring
- Provide support and advice to class teachers alongside the EAL Co-ordinator

9. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DIFFERENTIATION

- EAL pupils are not children with SEN and our school recognises that most EAL pupils needing support with their English do not have SEN needs, but have skills and knowledge about language similar to monolingual English-speaking children. Their ability to participate in the full curriculum may be in advance of their communicative skills in English.
- Some EAL pupils may have a special educational need and in such cases pupils will have equal access to school SEN provision, in addition to EAL support. EAL pupils with a special educational need will be identified as part of normal assessment procedures as outlined in our SEND Policy.
- EAL pupils considered to be more able or to have an individual talent will be identified as part of normal assessment procedures as outlined in our Gifted and Talented Policy.

10. COMMUNICATION

Parents and teachers will work together in the best interests of pupils with EAL. Teachers will meet with parents on a termly basis to inform them of progress made and discuss strategies in place if there is an Individual Education Plan in place.

11. SOURCE OF INFORMATION

The NALDIC website is the main source of information for all matters connected to EAL provision: <https://naldic.org.uk/>