

Policy for English as an Additional Language

(EAL)

Arden Primary School





STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy for English as an Additional Language (EAL)

This policy is a statement of our school's aims and strategies to ensure that EAL pupils fulfil their potential

Introduction/Mission statement

All pupils need to feel safe, accepted and valued in order to learn. For pupils who are learning English as an additional language, this includes recognising and valuing their home language and background. As a school, we are aware that bilingualism is a strength and that EAL pupils have a valuable contribution to make. We take a whole school approach, including ethos, curriculum, education against racism and promoting language awareness.

Aims of Policy

This policy aims to raise awareness of the school's obligations and to support the planning, organisation, teaching and assessment procedures, and the use of resources and strategies to meet the needs of pupils who have English as an additional language (EAL) and so to raise pupil achievement.

Context of school

At our school there are 49 pupils (9%) who are learning English as an additional language. This number is likely to rise in the future.

Information is gathered about:

- pupils' linguistic background and competence in other language/s
- pupils' previous educational experience
- pupils' family and biographical background

A member of staff is nominated to have responsibility for EAL. Currently this is Mrs Teresa MCQuade

Role of the EAL Coordinator

- Ensure induction process for new arrivals is in place and followed
- Oversee initial assessment of pupils' standard of English as necessary
- Give guidance and support to class teachers to set targets and plan appropriate work
- Monitor standards of teaching and learning of pupils with EAL
- Monitor progress and identify learning difficulties that may be masked by EAL
- Liaise with SENCO if necessary
- Keep up to date with EAL strategies and issues by attending courses
- Ensure resources and displays reflect the cultural diversity of the school

Key Principles of additional language acquisition

- EAL pupils are entitled to the full National Curriculum programmes of study and all their teachers have a responsibility for teaching English as well as other subject content.
- Access to learning requires attention to words and meanings embodied in each curriculum area. Meanings and understanding cannot be assumed but must be made explicit.
- Language is central to our identity. Therefore, the home languages of all pupils and staff should be recognised and valued. Pupils should be encouraged to maintain their home language and use it in the school environment wherever possible.
- Although many pupils acquire the ability to communicate on a day to day basis in English quite quickly, the level of language needed for academic study is much deeper and more detailed, and can require continuing support for up to ten years.
- Language develops best when used in purposeful contexts across the curriculum.
- The language demands of learning tasks need to be identified and included in planning.
- Teaching and support staff play a crucial role in modelling uses of language.
- Knowledge and skills developed in learning the first language aid the acquisition of additional languages.
- A clear distinction should be made between EAL and Special Educational Needs.

Assessment

- All EAL pupils are entitled to assessments as required.
- The Ethnic Diversity Service (EDS) may be requested to visit school. They will assess and monitor pupils, give support and guidance to staff and direct support to prioritised pupils.
- Staff have regular liaison time to discuss pupil progress, needs and targets.
- Progress in the acquisition of English is regularly assessed and monitored.
- Consideration and sensitivity is given to the appropriateness of testing EAL pupils at the earlier stages of English acquisition.
- End of Year Reports are translated into their home language.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Targets for EAL pupils are appropriate, challenging and reviewed on a regular basis.
- Planning for EAL pupils incorporates both curriculum and EAL specific objectives.
- When planning the curriculum, staff take account of the linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds of families.

Teaching Strategies

- Classroom activities have clear learning objectives and use appropriate materials and support to enable pupils to participate in lessons.
- Key language features of each curriculum area, e.g. key vocabulary, uses of language, forms of text, are identified.
- Enhanced opportunities are provided for speaking and listening, including both process and presentational talk, and use made of drama techniques and role play. Pupils have access to effective staff and peer models of spoken language.
- Additional visual support is provided, e.g. posters, pictures, photographs, objects, demonstration, and use of gesture.
- Additional verbal support is provided, e.g. repetition, modelling, peer support.
- Use is made of collaborative activities that involve purposeful talk and encourage and support active participation.
- Where possible, learning progression moves from the concrete to the abstract.

- Where possible discussion is provided before, during and after reading and writing activities.
- Scaffolding is provided for language and learning, e.g. talk frames, writing frames.

Materials

Our school provides appropriate materials such as dictionaries and key word lists. maps, I.C.T including Flash Academy and story props also give crucial support.

Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented Pupils

- Most EAL pupils needing additional support do not have SEN .
- Should SEN be identified, EAL pupils have equal access to school's SEN provision.
- If EAL pupils are identified as Gifted and Talented, they have equal access to school's provision.

Parental/Community Involvement

Staff strive to encourage parental and community involvement by:

- providing a welcoming induction process for newly arrived pupils and their families/carers.
- using plain English and translators and interpreters, where appropriate and available, to ensure good spoken and written communications.
- identifying linguistic, cultural and religious background of pupils and establishing contact with the wider community where possible.
- celebrating and acknowledging the achievements of EAL pupils in the wider community.
- recognising and encouraging the use of a first language.
- helping parents understand how they can support their children at home, especially by continuing the development of their first language.

This policy to be reviewed on a twice yearly basis basis by EAL coordinator, Headteacher and Governing Body

Agreed: October 2023

Reviewed: October 2026

