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Learning without limits

English as an Additional Language Educational Provision and Welfare Policy 2024-2025

Person Responsible: Principal – Melanie Waller

Updated: July 2024

Next Review Due: September 2025

References:

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Policy Admissions Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Curriculum Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

For the purpose of this Policy, children considered EAL are those whose first language is other than English. First language is language to which the child was initially exposed during early development and continues to use this language in the home and community. This may or may not impact on a child's learning development but where it does the following steps will be taken to support EAL learners within the school.

We believe that all pupils have a right of access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum regardless of English Language proficiency. We value the linguistic and cultural diversity of the people in our school and the wider community. In our school, all our children are important, and this applies to all aspects of their education – their teaching and learning, their achievements, their attitudes, and their wellbeing. We encourage all our children to aim for the highest possible standards, and we take account of each child's individual needs and experiences.

Being a speaker of more than one language is no disadvantage to educational achievement; indeed, multilingualism is associated with success. This school recognises the importance of community languages, and the ability of their speakers to acquire other languages.

Aims and Objectives

To close the achievement gap between pupils with English as their home language and those with English as an Additional Language within the times and resources available to us.

- To identify pupils who have English as an Additional Language.
- To monitor their progress.
- To ensure that the teaching encourages all EAL pupils to progress academically and to intervene should this progress fall below expectations.
- To ensure that all EAL pupils are fully integrated into school life.
- To monitor the social, emotional, and behavioural welfare of EAL pupils.
- To communicate with parents and support language development at home.

Good practice

- The names of pupils who have English as an Additional Language will be placed on the EAL register.
- On application and/or entry to school an initial assessment of the children's needs may be made. If it is felt that more specialist teaching may be needed, on entry, the parents will be put in contact with the relevant teacher so this may be discussed. If it is felt that the need can be catered for within the classroom, then planning and target setting will take place in each lesson if necessary.
- Curriculum areas will detail how the needs of EAL pupils are met in curriculum documentation.

- Pupils receive relevant induction where they feel welcomed and supported. The form tutor will ensure a pupil mentor is appointed to look after the new pupil and assist with his/her induction into the daily routine.
- Pupils receive help coping with learning in all subjects.
- Those children who have EAL needs will be discussed in staff meetings and the Learning Support / curriculum meetings.
- EAL pupils entering LVS AT Year 7 or above will have access to a Teaching Assistant who will be available to monitor their education and welfare needs daily.

Teaching and Learning

EAL teaching takes place within lessons and within all subjects. It is primarily about teaching and learning language through the context of the whole curriculum. We

aim to make personalised provision for children who have EAL to ensure they learn and reach a good standard in English Language. Increased provision is deemed appropriate after support has been given following identification, monitoring and assistance within the classroom. Over time a more in-depth scrutiny of test results and general language development will be undertaken. In regular conversation with the parents and class teachers and where specialist EAL teaching is deemed appropriate a language screener will be done by a professional to determine an entry level for specific and targeted support.

If required a specialist EAL teacher will be made available in school. This will incur additional cost to parents/LEA and as such the level of support will be discussed directly with parents. The EAL teacher will liaise on a weekly basis with the Head of Lower school or Post 16 to ensure that those having 1-1 lessons have this linked to their curriculum needs. The EAL teacher will also provide a written report for parents, on progress, alongside whole school reports.

Teaching and learning style

In our school, teachers will use various methods to help children who are learning English as an additional language:

Developing their spoken and written English by:

- ensuring that vocabulary work covers the technical as well as the everyday meanings;
- covering not just key words, but also metaphors and idioms;
- explaining how spoken and written English have different usages for different purposes;
- providing them with a range of reading materials, to exemplify the diverse ways in which English is used;
- giving them appropriate opportunities for talking, and using talking to support writing;
- encouraging them to relate one language to another;

Ensuring their access to the curriculum and to assessment by:

- using texts and materials that suit their ages and learning stages;

- providing support through ICT (INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY), video and audio materials, dictionaries and translators, readers, and amanuenses;
- using the home or first language where appropriate/possible

Work from across the curriculum should be considered when judging the overall level of achievement in speaking, listening, reading, or writing. It is important that judging cognitive ability is not masked by limited competence in English. EAL children will be given every opportunity to progress through the curriculum which matches their cognitive ability. Difficulties with language acquisition will be taken into consideration to support the welfare of the pupil.

EAL or SEND (Special Educational Needs)

Some children may begin to show signs of having more difficulty in accessing the Curriculum. Therefore, they will be monitored in the following ways:

Triggers for concern;

- Language acquisition progresses below expected levels.
- Unusually slow work rate compared with peers.
- Little response to peer or teacher intervention.
- Specific weaknesses in English language development.
- Poor listening and attention skills.
- Specific weaknesses in English literacy skills.
- Gap between test scores and reading ability.
- Very low baseline assessment.
- Poor ability in first language.
- Inability to acquire basic number concepts.
- Parent expressing concern over pupil's school progress.
- Emotional and behavioural difficulties.