

Introduction

This policy sets out the school's aims, objectives and strategies with regard to meeting the needs and celebrating the skills of EAL pupils, and helping them to achieve the highest possible standards.

All pupils need to feel safe, accepted and valued in order to learn effectively and become successful members of society. For pupils, who are learning English as an additional language, this includes recognising and valuing their home language and background. At The Willows Primary School, we are aware that bilingualism can be a useful learning tool and that all EAL pupils can make a valuable contribution to their school community. We take a whole school approach, including ethos, curriculum and education against racism through Cultural Diversity Days.

At The Willows Primary School we celebrate the fact that some of our children speak more than one language and we acknowledge their ability to use a variety of community languages. In our school the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all children are important. We encourage all children to achieve the highest possible standards, considering each child's life experiences and needs.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline The Willows Primary School's approach to identification and meeting the needs of pupils who are classified as having English as an additional language (EAL).

Aims

The policy aims to raise awareness and to support 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).

As a school, we will work together to:

- Provide our EAL pupils with a safe, welcoming, nurturing environment where they are accepted, valued and encouraged to participate
- Ensure access to the curriculum through high quality teaching
- Help children to speak, understand, read and write English
- Support the continued use of children's home languages
- Assess and monitor learning which informs teaching
- Be proactive in removing barriers that stand in the way of our EAL learners fulfilling their potential
- Make sure EAL learners are not inappropriately labelled or grouped as SEN or low ability
- Acknowledge individual strengths and celebrate cultural identities
- Provide an environment which celebrates diversity and supports English language learning
- Work with parents of EAL learners and ensure language is not a barrier to effective partnership
- Provide EAL learners – particularly those who are International New Arrivals - with a safe and welcoming environment where they are accepted, valued and encouraged to participate
- Meet our responsibilities to EAL pupils by ensuring equal access to the National Curriculum and the achievement of their educational potential.

Objectives of the EAL Policy

- To assist all EAL pupils to become fluent English speakers as quickly as possible
- To develop staff expertise to ensure that all EAL pupils attain levels of achievement appropriate to their intellectual abilities

- To develop rigorous monitoring, evaluating and review systems.

At The Willows Primary School teachers take action to help children who are learning English as an additional language by various means:

1. Developing their spoken and written English by:

- ensuring that vocabulary work covers the technical as well as the everyday meaning of key words, metaphors and idioms
- providing a range of reading materials that highlight the different ways in which English is used
- ensuring that there are effective opportunities for talking, and that talking is used to support writing
- encouraging children to transfer their knowledge, skills and understanding of one language to another
- building on children's experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and other languages support one another.

2. Ensuring access to the curriculum and to assessment by:

- using accessible texts and materials that suit children's ages and levels of learning
- providing support through ICT, video or audio materials, dictionaries and translators, readers and other means
- using the home or first language where appropriate
- setting small step targets in literacy for EAL pupils

Key Principles of additional language acquisition

EAL pupils are entitled to the full National Curriculum programme 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 language of all pupils and staff should be recognised and valued. Pupils should be encouraged to maintain their home language. 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.

Model for Language Acquisition

1. New to English (Beginners)

A child may:

- Use first language for learning and other purposes
- Remain silent in the classroom • Copy/repeat some words and phrases

- Understand some everyday English expressions but have minimal or no English literacy

2. Early Acquisition (Beginners to intermediate)

A child may:

- Follow day-to-day social communication in English
- Begin to use spoken English for social purposes
- Understand simple instructions and follow narrative/accounts with visual support
- Develop some skills in reading and writing
- Become familiar with some subject specific vocabulary

A child at this stage needs significant support.

3. Developing Competence (Intermediate)

A child may:

- Participate in learning activities with increasing independence
- Express themselves orally in English but structural inaccuracies are still apparent
- Require ongoing support in literacy, particularly for understanding text and writing
- Follow abstract concepts and more complex written English

A child at this stage requires support to access the curriculum fully.

4. Competent (Advanced)

A child may:

- Develop oral English well, allowing successful engagement in activities across the curriculum
- Read and understand a wide variety of text
- Written English may lack complexity
- Demonstrate evidence of errors in grammatical structure

A child at this stage needs support to access subtle nuances of meaning, to refine English usage, and to develop abstract vocabulary.

5. Fluent

A child at this stage can operate across the curriculum to a level of competence equivalent to that of a pupil who uses English as his/her first language.

Curriculum Access

All children at The Willows Primary School follow the curricular requirements of the Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum. Children with English as an additional language do not produce separate work, unless within a focused target intervention group.

We do withdraw children from lessons to receive EAL support in order to support those children who are targeted and in need of additional small group work, in addition to those children who are new to English.

In the Foundation Stage, we plan opportunities for children to develop their English, and we provide support to help them take part in activities.

The Foundation Stage helps children learning English as an additional language by:

- building on children's experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and of other languages support one another
- providing a range of opportunities for children to engage in speaking and listening activities in English with peers and adults.

Children are given space and time. Thoughtful provision and acknowledgement of their skills in their home language gives them the confidence to achieve in English.

Assessment

Pupils who are new to our school are given time to settle and assessed after the first three weeks of their arrival. They are monitored during and after intervention work.

We carry out ongoing recording of attainment and progress in line with agreed school procedures for EAL children not New to English, monitoring the progress made at least termly, then highlighting children in need of targeting for focus support.

The statutory assessment arrangements of the National Curriculum allow us to make special arrangements for children who are learning English as an additional language. For the science and written mathematics test at Key Stage 2, we can provide verbal translations for children in their first year in the English school system. For the mental arithmetic test at Key Stage 2 we can provide a verbal translation of the test to children who have limited English, and who joined the school after 1st September in the year preceding the tests.

Teaching Strategies and Pedagogical Approaches

The curriculum is personalised and this helps the children use their prior knowledge and experience. The speaking and listening is always the starting point of a new topic or activity and writing is always the last step, giving EAL pupils extra time to speak before they write. The grammatical rules and the sentence structures are taught within the context of the different topics and genres.

Visual resources are used to aid learning

The teaching at The Willows Primary School is based on the Early Years outcomes and the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 and 2. The central task is to create a communicative climate where language acquisition can take place naturally. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are not artificially separated, but are integrated in a meaningful total experience.

Pupils with EAL are encouraged to communicate through paired work and group work and this way they improve their listening as well. EAL children are paired with fluent English speaking pupils as much as possible to provide them with good models of English. Through speaking exercises such as interviews, storytelling and drama, the children gain verbal routine, enthusiasm and confidence. The key vocabulary is taught at the beginning of a new topic and the children learn and practise grammatical structures and sentence building using the topic vocabulary.

Staff use support strategies to ensure curriculum access:

- High quality first teaching. Children remain in class as much as possible
- Collaborative group work, class buddies and mentors

- Enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening
- Effective role models of speaking, reading and writing
- Additional verbal support-repetition, alternative phrasing, peer support
- Additional visual support, e.g. posters, objects, non-verbal clues, pictures, demonstration, use of gesture, etc.
- Bilingual resources, e.g. dictionaries, on-line support, bilingual staff/pupils, texts, key word lists
- Writing frames, directed activities related to texts
- Opportunities for role play
- Regular feedback from staff
- Opportunities to focus on the cultural knowledge explicit or implicit in texts
- Discussion provided before and during reading and writing activities, using preferred language where appropriate
- Learning progression moves from concrete to abstract

Further support for pupils' language development is provided outside the formal curriculum, e.g. in assemblies, school clubs, homework clubs, etc.

Personalisation of Learning to Meet an Individual Pupil's Needs

The EAL teaching at The Willows Primary School focuses on individual pupil's needs and abilities.

Initial assessments for new arrival children with EAL are completed after settling in period. These assessments focus on Speaking and Listening (WellComm and Nassea materials), Understanding, Grammar, Vocabulary and Narrative. Phonic knowledge assessment (Bug Club / ReadWriteINC Get Spelling)

If additional support is required a Language Plan sets out the interventions for each child and is monitored termly by EAL Lead and Class teacher.

Differentiated planning is put into place to support the EAL children in their Literacy and Maths groups. In Literacy the children work on the same topic and unit, but the tasks are either extended or simplified to meet their special needs. In Maths the planning is differentiated according to the children's previous education and knowledge and targets are being set to fill the gaps in their knowledge.

Beginners: Classroom Support Staff take groups of EAL children/individuals for Phonics, spelling/reading of high frequency words and reading (Get Spelling 1 –ReadWriteInc). The children are also taught basic nouns and phrases that they will need in the classroom. Games to develop social skills including Lego therapy.

Intermediates: Targeted group work to further develop their vocabulary and demonstrates to the children how to speak in simple sentences. Pupils are also taught Phonics skills to enable the children to record their work. Pre-teaching of vocabulary. WellComm activities from Big Book of Ideas. Reading Comprehension (WolfHill/Kings Court/ Bug Club- New Rapids).

Advanced: Support continues in the classroom by differentiated planning, EAL support and individual set activities according to pupils' needs.

EAL pupils with Disabilities and/or, Special Educational Needs and those who are More Able and/or Talented

We recognise that intelligence is not measured in the ability to speak English fluently. Should Special Educational Needs be identified, EAL pupils have equal access to school's SEND provision. EAL pupils identified as More Able have equal access to school's provision. We encourage all children to access our school clubs in order to improve their language skills through play and entertainment.

Parental/Community Involvement

At The Willows Primary School we encourage parental and community involvement by:

- Providing a welcoming induction process for newly arrived pupils and their families/carers
- Using translators and interpreters, where appropriate and available, to ensure good links are made between the Family and the school
- Identifying linguistic, cultural and religious background of pupils and establish contact with the wider community
- Recognising and encouraging the use of first language for developing positive links between school and home
- Inviting parents for coffee mornings/afternoons to establish positive relationships between the school and the local community. During these sessions we share information and signpost parents to appropriate services.

Admissions Procedure

At The Willows Primary School we offer a warm welcome each new family with a tour of the school and an introductory meeting with the Head teacher. An initial meeting provides an opportunity for the school to gather information about the child using our New Arrivals Admission Questionnaire. It also provides information to parents about the school. Care and consideration to English language proficiency is given when arranging meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities

There is a collective responsibility, held by all staff, to identify and remove barriers that stand in the way of our EAL pupils' achievement and inclusion.

The EAL lead oversees the development and day-to-day coordination of EAL provision.

The EAL Lead will:

- Understand what constitutes excellent EAL provision and provide advice on EAL teaching
- Carry out an annual EAL audit, write an action plan and share the EAL vision with stakeholders (all staff, parents, governors and children)
- Keep abreast of educational guidance and EAL issues
- Liaise with Head Teacher regarding the admission of EAL learners and monitor EAL arrivals and leavers
- Monitor teaching, learning and assessment
- Collect and analyse EAL data and advise on EAL development priorities
- Manage EAL resources
- Maximise opportunities for staff professional development
- Promote a school environment that celebrates diversity

- Promote positive relationships with parents of EAL learners
- Liaise with and support the school leadership team on matters relating to EAL