



English as an Additional Language Policy.

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Bestwood Village School - Policy for English as an Additional Language (EAL)

This policy is a statement of our school's aims and strategies to ensure that pupils for whom English is an Additional Language fulfil their potential.

Bestwood Village School is an independent specialist day school. We provide specialist education for young people aged 7 to 16, including children in care, who have a range of complex behavioural, communication and social difficulties associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Bestwood Village School is committed to raising achievement and enabling pupils to recognise their potential; supporting them through a personalised, engaging curriculum. Our priority is to develop the foundation knowledge and skills required to make a manageable and smooth transition to the next life stage. We offer an outstanding therapeutic, supportive learning environment where our young people are supported enabling them to accept responsibility for their actions, make positive decisions and display pro-social behaviour. We aim to help each young person to become confident individuals and responsible citizens with a fundamental understanding of British Values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

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, and 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.

- There are currently no EAL pupils at Bestwood Village School.
- The school recognises that EAL pupils come from a variety of backgrounds. Some of their families are from well-established communities.
- Many EAL pupils are isolated learners and may be the only speaker of their language in their class or at school.
- We recognise any EAL pupils who attend Bestwood Village School are literate in their home language on arrival whereas some may have had no previous formal education.
- We are aware that a proportion of EAL pupils may have experienced trauma and this will have an impact on their learning.

Context of school at Bestwood Village School

Bestwood are prepared for the referral of any pupil with EAL and have provisions in place to gather information on:

- Pupils' linguistic background and competence in other language/s.
- Pupils' previous educational experience.
- Pupils' family and biographical background.
- A member of teaching assistant team will be nominated to have responsibility for EAL and promotes the 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 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 as long as is needed.
- 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 any assessments as required.
- Staff have regular liaison time to discuss pupil progress, needs and targets.
- Progress in the acquisition of English is regularly assessed and monitored.
- Assessment methods are checked for cultural bias and action is taken to remove any that is identified.
- Consideration and sensitivity is given to the appropriateness of testing EAL pupils at the earlier stages of English acquisition.

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.
- Staff regularly observe, assess and record information about pupils' developing use of language.
- When planning the curriculum, staff will 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 – where possible these will also be visualised.
- Enhanced opportunities are provided for speaking and listening, including both processing 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 to further enhance vocabulary wherever possible.
- 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.
- 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 has the ability to provide appropriate materials such as dual language text books, dictionaries and key word lists. Videos, maps, I.C.T. and story props also give crucial support.

Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented Pupils

- SEN is 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

School staff strives 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 wider community where possible
- Celebrating and acknowledging the achievements of EAL pupils in the wider community
- Recognising and encouraging the use of first language
- Helping parents understand how they can support their children at home, especially by continuing the development of their first language.