**English as an Additional**

**Language**

**Policy**

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# 1. Introduction

The term EAL (English as an Additional Language) is used to refer to pupils whose main language at home is other than English.

EAL pupils, from complete beginners to those with considerable fluency, will have varying degrees of difficulty in accessing the full curriculum and in achieving their full potential. Research has shown that those new to English will acquire conversational fluency in two years, but will need a minimum of five years to achieve competence in academic English. Such pupils will need language support if they are to reach their full potential. The provision of this support fulfils the requirements of the Race Relations Act of 1976 which seeks to promote Equality of Opportunity and to eliminate discrimination in the provision of education.

This policy sets out the school’s aims, objectives and strategies with regard to the needs and skills of EAL pupils.

# 2. Aims

* To welcome and value the cultural, linguistic and educational experiences that pupils with EAL bring to Walton-le-Dale.
* To implement school-wide strategies to ensure that EAL pupils are supported in accessing the curriculum.
* To help EAL pupils to become confident and to acquire the English language skills they need to be able to fulfil their academic potential.

# 3. Objectives

* To be able to assess the skills and needs of pupils with EAL and to provide for their needs.
* To equip teachers and teaching support staff with the knowledge, skills and resources to be able to support and monitor pupils with EAL.
* To monitor pupils’ progress systematically and use the data to inform classroom management, curriculum planning and the setting of targets.
* To maintain pupils’ self-esteem and confidence by acknowledging and giving status to their skills in their own languages.

# 4. Strategies

‘The definition of EAL used in the NPD reflects exposure to a language other than English at home or in the community, it gives no indication of a students' proficiency in the English language. It is important that this is recognised. ***It is proficiency in the English language that is the major factor influencing the degree of support an individual student will require***, and schools will need to be able to assess this need accurately using their own procedures and expertise.’ ([EEF](https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/documents/guidance/EAL_and_educational_achievement__Prof_S_Strand.pdf?v=1629122217))

There will be a positive and effective language ethos:

* There will be an understanding that a limited knowledge of English does not reflect a lack of ability or a lack of literacy in a pupil's mother tongue. Appreciating and acknowledging a pupil's ability in her/his own culture is crucial for her/his self-esteem.
* The language development of all students is the responsibility of all teachers and teaching support staff.
* There will be liaison between mainstream and support departments to discuss language development within the structure of the lesson.
* Diversity will be valued and classrooms will be socially and intellectually inclusive.
* Teachers will be knowledgeable about pupils’ abilities and needs in English and other subjects and use this knowledge to inform their curriculum planning, classroom teaching and pupil grouping.
* Support will be provided in various forms, including induction classes for complete beginners in English; the provision of in-class support and work in small groups where appropriate.
* A request will be made to the LEA regarding access to a support teacher for a limited period of time in order for WLD staff to be aware of relevant materials appropriate to develop the language skills of individual students.
* An allocated member of staff will work with the students each week to use the strategies discussed with the EAL team from the LEA

# 5. Teaching and Learning

In order to ensure that we meet the needs of EAL students, staff will:

* assess the pupil’s fluency level as soon as possible
* Use the most recent NGRT reading age data to inform planning
* show differentiated work for EAL pupils
* employ a range of strategies, encompassed within the Brilliant T&L Toolkit, within each lesson to reinforce understanding and meaning so as to develop language in context
* have high expectations, expect pupils to participate in all classroom activities/tasks
* monitor progress carefully and ensure that EAL pupils are set appropriate and challenging tasks, including the setting of appropriate extended tasks
* recognise that EAL pupils need more time to process answers and to complete extended work
* allow pupils to use their mother tongue to explore concepts when appropriate
* give newly arrived pupils time to absorb English bearing in mind that there is a “silent period” when those new to the language understand more English than they use
* group pupils so that EAL pupils hear good models of English
* use collaborative learning techniques

Spoken and written communication between the students and teaching and nonteaching staff, and between the school and parents and the local community, will be positive and appropriate, including the use of students’ home languages.

Evidence to be acknowledged:

Taken from the EEF on EAL

‘However we have been able to point to various risk factors for low attainment among EAL students. In most cases these are the same risk factors as apply for FLE students, but it is notable that recent international arrival, school mobility and particular first languages groups within the White Other and Black African ethnic groups are associated with much higher risks of low attainment for EAL students’