



St. Mary's School
(including EYFS)

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

St. Mary's School
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A Cognita School

Owner: RH

Introduction

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

EAL students, 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 students 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 our aims, objectives and strategies with regard to the needs and skills of EAL students.

At St. Mary's School we have children who are from families who speak more than one language at home. All efforts are made to ensure those with EAL are properly identified at the time of entry to the school but all pupils will be carefully assessed and monitored in order to identify those who may, for one reason or another, have been incorrectly identified on entry to the school as either being outside or inside of the true EAL group.

Aims

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

Objectives

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

Strategies

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 students' mother tongue. Appreciating and acknowledging a student's ability in his/her own culture is crucial for his/her self-esteem.
- The language development of all students is the responsibility of all teachers and learning Support staff.

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- Diversity will be valued and classrooms will be socially and intellectually inclusive.
- Teachers will be knowledgeable about students' abilities and needs in English and other subjects and use this knowledge to inform their curriculum planning, classroom teaching and student grouping.

Teaching and Learning

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

- Assess the student's fluency level as soon as possible (any concerns will have been raised on entry to the school through our normal assessment procedures).
- Show differentiated work for EAL students
- Employ a range of strategies within each lesson to reinforce understanding and meaning so as to develop language in context.
- Have high expectations; expect students to participate in all classroom activities and tasks.
- Monitor progress carefully and ensure that all EAL students are set appropriate and challenging tasks, including the setting of appropriate extended tasks.
- Recognise that EAL students need more time to process answers and to complete extended work.
- Allow students to use their mother tongue to explore concepts where appropriate.
- Give newly arrived students 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 students so that EAL students hear good models of English.
- Use collaborative learning techniques.

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

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