

RIVERSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

EAL Policy



INTRODUCTION

1.1 At Riversdale 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 well-being. We encourage all our children to aim for the highest possible standards, and we take account of each child's individual needs and experiences.

1.2 Many of our children have particular requirements with regard to learning and assessment, and these are linked to their progress in learning English as an additional language.

1.3 Children who are learning English as an additional language have linguistic skills similar to those of monolingual English-speaking children. Their ability to participate in the full curriculum may well be in advance of their current ability to communicate in English.

1.4 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 in their own right, and the ability of their speakers to acquire other languages.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Underlying the National Curriculum is the entitlement of all children to access certain areas of learning, and thereby to acquire the knowledge, the understanding, the skills and the attitudes that are necessary not only for their self-fulfillment, but also for their development as responsible citizens. We seek to honour this entitlement through the education that we provide in our school.

2.2 The aim of this policy is therefore to help to ensure that we meet all the needs of those children who are learning English as an additional language. This is in line with the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLE

3.1 In our school (see also 4.4 re Foundation Stage), teachers use various methods to help children who are learning English as an additional language:

3.1.1 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 different 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;
- using multicultural and some multilingual texts across all areas of the curriculum

3.1.2 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, video and audio materials, dictionaries and translators, readers and amanuenses;
- using the home or first language where appropriate.
- Policy on English as an Additional Language (EAL)

EAL AND INCLUSION

4.1 In our school, we value each child as a unique individual. We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to inclusion. All children in our school follow the requirements of the National Curriculum. Children with English as an additional language do not produce separate work. We provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of all pupils learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

4.2 We rarely withdraw children from lessons to receive EAL support. The language support teacher from the LA's Cultural Support Unit works in partnership with class teachers within classrooms. This involves supporting individual children or small groups of children and, at times, teaching the whole class. Sometimes the language support teacher works with groups composed not entirely of EAL children.

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

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

- building on their experience of acquiring language at home and in the wider community, so that this experience supports their developing use of English;
- providing a range of opportunities for them to engage in English speaking and listening activities, with peers and with adults;
- providing bilingual support to extend vocabulary;
- providing opportunities for children to hear their home languages, as well as English;
- providing a variety of writing in the children's home languages, as well as in English.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

5.1 Our school uses the QCA English scales to measure the English language competence of EAL children. We record their attainment and progress according to agreed school procedures.

5.2 We recognise that EAL learners can make rapid progress in acquiring English but being fully competent in the use of formal language can take up to ten years.

5.3 The language needs of all EAL pupils are assessed on arrival at the school using the Initial Assessment form. Additional support is given where necessary.

5.4 Other assessments comply with the procedures used for all other pupils in the school, e.g. Individual targets and S.A.Ts.

PRACTICE

6.1 In September the EMAG teacher assesses the language of each pupil according to the Hilary Hestor four stages of English language acquisition. Each EAL child is given a language level from 1 - 4.

6.2 15 - 18 pupils are targeted by the EMAG teacher to be reported on at year end. Class teachers are notified of the selected children.

6.3 Results of assessment are sent to the LEA in June.

MONITORING

7.1 This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.