
SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) POLICY

Note: This policy applies to all sections of the school including EYFS.

Date: November 2021

Review Date: November 2022

The school's overall ethos is to help pupils feel valued members of the school community and are able to thrive in a culture where the predominant language may be different to their own.

Definition of EAL

An EAL pupil is one whose first language is not English. This includes children who are fully bilingual as well as those who are still learning English. This may include:

1. Pupils who have been born in the UK, but for whom the home language is not English.
2. Pupils who have lived in the UK for a long time and may appear to be fluent whilst speaking another language at home. These pupils may not be entirely fluent and may make grammatical errors or struggle with spelling and vocabulary.
3. Pupils arriving from other countries and whose first language is not English.

Pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) have educational needs of a particular kind. Their progress depends on the School clarifying their needs and meeting them. All pupils with EAL are identified on entry to the school and a register is kept.

Provision

The pupil's needs should be identified through the admissions process and if applicable, added to the EAL register (found as part of the learning support register). Pupils are assessed and supported using the graduated approach where individual needs can be differentiated for and met through careful planning and the monitoring of progress. Where possible and appropriate pupils with EAL are taught within the classroom setting with their peers, however pupils may also be withdrawn from lessons and provided individual guidance and support. If necessary, additional support may be put in place depending on the individual need and where appropriate specialist advice may be sought to inform best practice.

Planning should take account of such factors as the pupil's age, length of time in this country, previous educational experience and skills in other languages. Careful monitoring of each pupil's progress in the acquisition of English language skills and subject knowledge and understanding will be necessary to confirm that no learning difficulties are present.

The ability of pupils with EAL to take part in the curriculum may be ahead of their communication skills in English. Teachers should plan learning opportunities to help pupils develop their English and should aim to provide the support pupils need to take part in all subject areas.

Teachers should take action to help pupils with EAL by, for example:

(a) Developing their spoken and written English through:

- Ensuring that vocabulary work covers both the technical and everyday meaning of key words, metaphors and idioms and making subject-specific language clear in lessons.
- Explaining clearly how speaking and writing in English are structured to achieve different purposes, across a range of subjects.
- Providing a variety of reading material for example, pupils' own work, the media, ICT, literature, reference books that highlight the different ways in which English is used, especially those that help pupils to understand society and culture.
- Ensuring that there are effective opportunities for talk and that talk is used to support writing in all subjects.
- Where appropriate, encouraging pupils to transfer their knowledge, skills and understanding of one language to another, pointing out similarities and differences between languages.
- Building on pupils' experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and other languages support one another.

(b) Ensuring access to the curriculum and assessment through:

- Using accessible texts and materials that suit pupils' ages and levels of learning.
- Providing support by using ICT or video or audio materials, dictionaries and translators, readers and amanuenses.
- Using home or first language, where appropriate and/or possible.

Review

Support and review is by way of termly meetings where parents are invited to meet with the SENCo, and class teacher. Meetings are recorded on meeting record forms and new targets where necessary are mutually agreed. Ideas for support at home are also agreed.