

## EAL (ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE) POLICY

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### MONITORING AND REVIEW

Person Responsible	Katie Cork, Deputy Head
Reviewed by	SLT
Approved by	SLT
Frequency of Review	Annually
Date of Last Review	July 2023
Date of Next Review	July 2024

The School refers to all staff and students in St Mary's School, which includes the Early Years/Foundations Stage (EYFS), the Preparatory Department (Years 1-6), Senior House (Years 7-11) and the Sixth Form (Years 12-13).

The term 'parent' refers to those who have parental responsibility for a child.

## CONTEXT

At St Mary's School the progress, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our students are important. We encourage all our students to achieve the highest possible standards, taking account of each child's life experiences and individual needs.

We do on occasion, admit students for whom English is not their first language, although they will have a good degree of fluency in English, and for whom we may need to make special arrangements and adjustments to enable them to fully access our curriculum. However, we acknowledge that these students have skills and knowledge about language similar to monolingual English-speaking students and that their ability to participate in the full curriculum may be in advance of their communicative skills in English.

## AIMS

In order to fully integrate students for whom English is an additional language we aim to:

- Support teachers by ensuring that they are aware of the EAL student's needs and so raise their achievements by providing an adapted curriculum
- Give EAL students immediate and maintained access to the whole curriculum as soon as possible
- Ensure that EAL students hear and speak good models of English and so proceed to reading and writing of such
- Provide support/withdrawal sessions for EAL students and to provide additional tuition with a private tutor as required
- Ensure awareness of the child's home language in order that we can value her cultural and linguistic background; an appreciation that language is part of our identity
- Provide appropriate resources for EAL learners
- Monitor and regularly assess EAL learners' ability to access the curriculum

## WIDER REFERENCES

This policy operates within a wider national policy framework, which includes:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children and Families ACT 2014
- SEND Regulations 2014
- SEND Code of Practice 2015

## RELATED POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with St Mary's School:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Admissions Policy

## DEFINITION OF EAL

The term "EAL" is used to describe a diverse and heterogeneous group of learners who speak English as an Additional Language and who are exposed to a language at home that is known or believed to be other than English ([www.bellfoundation.org.uk](http://www.bellfoundation.org.uk)). These learners may be fully bilingual or learning English. EAL students may be born in the UK, but in a family where the main language is not solely English.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

In Senior House, EAL provision is the responsibility of the Deputy Head and in the Prep Department it is the responsibility of the Head of Prep. They will ensure that the EAL register is updated and accurate, that sufficient provision is provided for the students and that they have access to the curriculum.

## IDENTIFICATION OF EAL

Identification of a student as having English as an Additional Language may be made in the following ways:

- Parents are asked to identify their children's needs on application to the school
- The class teacher identifies needs as a result of observation and assessment
- Using information from the previous school setting (if applicable)
- Baseline assessment
- Foundation stage profile information

Students who are identified as EAL have this information recorded on the school information management system and are recorded on the EAL Register. The EAL Register includes information about the appropriate provision the student should be provided.

EAL is not the same as SEND and conversely the two are not mutually exclusive. Should an EAL student be assessed as SEND they will have equal access to support for learning through LEAPS.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All student progress at St Mary's school is carefully monitored and analysed. The school will develop all EAL students' abilities both within the context of their subject and more generally with their English language progression. Many students will develop the ability to communicate conversationally quickly. However, the complexity of academic studies and testing requires more detailed language acquisition which can take up to ten years to acquire. Monitoring of EAL students is formative and based upon ongoing recording of attainment and progress in line with agreed school procedures. Subject assessments are checked for cultural bias and action is taken to either support the student or remove the bias. Assessment scores are reviewed with sensitivity during initial language acquisition.

It may be the case that a student has no language support needs during their time at the school. In such case EAL is still relevant, however, in terms of supporting and celebrating these pupils' abilities.

If difficulties arise in accessing the curriculum, in Senior House a subject teacher should inform their Head of Department who will then inform the Deputy Head. In Prep, a class teacher or teaching assistant should inform the Head of Prep. Consultation may include:

- Review/discussion of strategies in place or suggestion of new strategies or resources for differentiation and personalised learning.
- Classroom observations.
- Discussions with teachers and parents.

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

EAL students' additional learning needs are shared with teaching staff through the EAL Register. Any areas of difficulty are outlined for staff, including information about appropriate differentiation and support strategies. All staff are responsible for the development of their students and should be aware of the needs of individual learners and plan their teaching in accordance with those needs.

This may take the form of:

- Adapted materials
- Scaffolding use of language, particularly in longer writing tasks
- Modelling answers and good use of language
- Encouraging use of electronic devices for the purpose of translation and research
- Helping to explain English idioms and phrases that may not translate directly
- The use of a bilingual dictionary
- The use of in-class support
- IEP if required
- Identification of key language and key words
- The use of visuals to support language
- Opportunities are provided for speaking and listening

The EYFS helps students learning English as an additional language by:

- Building on student's experience of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing use of English and of other languages support one another
- Providing a range of opportunities for students to engage in speaking and listening activities in English with peers and adults
- Providing scaffolded support to extend vocabulary

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

If a parent does not speak English, they can provide the School with the contact details of a third party who can facilitate communication between home and school. This may be a relative or a guardian. The contact may attend Parents' Evenings alongside, or representing, the parents. The School will also endeavour to help in this situation.

## REVIEW

The EAL provision is carefully reviewed and evaluated to ensure comprehensive and inclusive provision.