



St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

'OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER'

Policy Title:	EAL policy
LT Responsibility:	Headteacher
Review Body:	Trust Improvement Partner
Date:	September 2020
Review:	September 2021

Our Christian inspiration

Central to our vision is the idea of growth. We grow and learn together; the community grows by 'building itself up in love' (Ephesians 4:16). The bible is rich in metaphors for growth, and Jesus' parables serve to guide us in our daily life at school. We want our school to be the 'good soil' (parable of the sower Mark 4: 8) where our children can develop and their God given talents and grow in knowledge and wisdom, so they have 'a future with hope' (Jerimiah 29:11)

We recognise that our pupils bring with them a wide variety of behaviours influenced by life experiences outside school. We aim to respond to each case professionally, objectively and compassionately. We are sensitive when working with children and families with specific needs and experiences and we continuously seek ways to promote successful partnerships. The basis of differentiation will vary dependant on the needs of each case but we will take into account the views of parents and families, colleagues and external agencies together with any Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan. We will also ensure compliance with the trust's Equality Policy taking into account pupils with protected characteristics and making reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010. Both the school and trust respects the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) that requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. By following the trust's Equality Policy, the school seeks to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by such legislation.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Equality Policy.

<https://www.aquinastrust.org/>

Statement of intent

In this policy, the term 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL) refers to pupils whose main language at home is a language other than English.

Pupils with EAL will face various difficulties throughout their academic life. Pupils' aptitude for English will vary, but many will face barriers to learning, accessing the curriculum and reaching their full potential. Pupils with EAL must learn in and through another language. In addition, they may come from different cultural backgrounds to their peers and face different expectations of language, education and learning.



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Research suggests that those new to English will acquire conversational fluency within two years, but will need five years or longer to achieve competence in academic English.

This policy has been established to ensure all pupils with EAL at the school are given the best chance possible to reach their full potential.

We aim to:

- Welcome the cultural, linguistic and educational experiences pupils with EAL contribute to the school.
- Ensure strategies are in place to support pupils with EAL.
- Enable pupils with EAL to become confident, and to acquire the language skills needed to reach their full academic potential.

Our strategic objectives are to:

- Provide a welcoming atmosphere for newly arrived pupils with EAL.
- Assess the skills and needs of pupils with EAL.
- Gather accurate information regarding children's backgrounds, cultures and abilities.
- Equip teachers and support staff with the necessary skills, resources and knowledge to support pupils with EAL.
- Use all available resources to raise the attainment of pupils with EAL.
- Systematically monitor pupils' progress, and adapt policies and procedures accordingly.
- Ensure all children's languages, cultures and identities are represented in classrooms and throughout the school.
- Maximise opportunities to model the fluent use of English.
- Ensure pupils with EAL are acknowledged for their skills in their own languages.

1. Role of the EAL lead teacher:

1.1. Their responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the assessment and targeting of children with EAL.
- Ensuring the procurement and appropriate use of resources to support pupils with EAL.
- Aiding staff in effective communication with parents and finding translators where appropriate.
- Exploring various possibilities to ensure important information is shared with parents.



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2. The role of school staff members

2.1. All staff members have a responsibility to ensure the development of pupils with EAL. They will meet this responsibility by:

- Ensuring all written work includes the technical requirements of language as well as the meaning.
- Providing a good model of spoken English.
- Where possible, using a variety of types of text to explore their subject and through the varied use of English.
- Ensuring the inclusion of pupils with EAL in their classrooms.
- Identifying pupils with EAL who are experiencing difficulties and ensuring intervening measures are taken to aid the pupil.

3. Support

3.1. Where a pupil with EAL is assessed as having little to no English, support will be provided in the form of interventions. These interventions focus on practical, everyday English. Pupils will still take part in all classes.

3.2. In-class support and small group work is utilised as well interventions in order to ensure the pupil can be successfully integrated into the classroom environment. The pupil will still spend time with their intervention teacher on a daily basis.

4. Inclusion

4.1. The school utilises a strategy of inclusion, and the positive and effective use of language. The strategy includes the following principles:

- There is an understanding throughout the school, for both staff and pupils, that a limited knowledge of English does not reflect a lack of ability or knowledge. Appreciating a pupil's ability to speak their own first language is essential for building their confidence and self-esteem.
- The language development of pupils is the responsibility of the entire school community.
- Mainstream and support interventions will work together to ensure optimal outcomes are achieved.
- Diversity will be valued and classrooms will be socially inclusive.
- Teachers will be knowledgeable about pupils' abilities in English and use their knowledge to inform lesson planning.
- Schemes of work may be rewritten to accommodate low levels of English, whilst maintaining the subject content and level of challenge.
- Where large groups of pupils with EAL speak the same language, the school encourages wider integration to promote inclusion and to improve pupils' understanding of English.



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5. Initial assessments

- 5.1. The school will undertake a timely initial assessment to gauge pupils' English abilities in an informal manner that does not make the pupil feel isolated or inferior.
- 5.2. Initial assessments are carried out by the teacher responsible for pupils with EAL, and completed assessments are held on the pupil's profile.
- 5.3. Teachers of the pupil will be allowed access to the assessment to inform their teaching and lesson planning.
- 5.4. The pupil and the parents of the pupil may view the assessment at any time.

6. Classroom practice

- 6.1. Teachers have high expectations of all pupils, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social background or English ability.
- 6.2. Classroom activities will be matched to pupils' needs and abilities.
- 6.3. Teachers will consider common misconceptions and language barriers, such as reading '3 x 3', where 'x' is read as the letter and not a function, and clarify meanings accordingly.
- 6.4. Where possible, the following practices will be utilised to improve pupils' literacy:
 - Utilisation of the pupil's first language expertise.
 - The provision of writing frames.
 - The use of props.
- 6.5. Language skills will be developed through:
 - Collaborative activities involving spoken communication.
 - Feedback opportunities and conversations.
 - Good models provided by peers.
- 6.6. Active participation will be encouraged by:
 - Grouping pupils in mixed ability groups to develop language skills.
 - 'Expert' readers and writers present in each group to provide assistance and model language.
- 6.7. Classroom displays will reflect cultural and linguistic diversity.
- 6.8. Assessment methods will allow pupils to show what they can do in all curriculum areas.



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6.9. Bilingual dictionaries are available to aid pupils with EAL.

6.10. Dual language textbooks are available and used where possible.

6.11. Visual supports are utilised where possible.

6.12. Prior to any private tuition/one-to-one support, the pupil is informed of the purpose of the session and the objectives.

7. Access to the curriculum

7.1. The needs of pupils with EAL are considered by teachers when planning lessons. When planning lessons, teachers will ensure that:

- The language and learning demands of the curriculum are analysed and support is provided.
- Visual support is utilised to provide greater understanding of key concepts.
- There are opportunities for pupils to use their first language in the classroom.
- The support requirements of pupils with EAL are identified and the support is made available.

8. Working with parents and carers

8.1. Liaison with parents is vital to the creation of a strong home/school partnership, which can ensure the development of pupils with EAL. To aid this partnership, the school will:

- Actively seek to put parents at ease by providing a welcoming environment conducive to productive discussions.
- Provide interpreters for meetings when needed.
- Ensure the language used in letters to parents is clear and straightforward.
- Where appropriate, have teachers read through the letter with children before sending the letter home, to ensure the message is clear.
- Where necessary, ensure translations of school documents are carried out and provided to parents of pupils with EAL.
- Encourage parents to attend parents' evenings and participate in school functions.
- Invite parents to school to help with class activities, such as cooking, reading and class outings, where appropriate.
- Encourage parents to become involved with homework through shared reading schemes and language-based homework.
- Plan activities in a way that ensures they do not clash with religious/community commitments.

9. Special educational needs (SEN)



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- 9.1. A child is not regarded to have SEN solely because their home language is different from the language in which they are taught at school.
- 9.2. A proportion of pupils with EAL may have one or more types of SEN and it is imperative that this is identified at an early stage.
- 9.3. Assessments of SEN of pupils with EAL will involve EAL specialists along with SEN specialists.
- 9.4. Where appropriate, the school will arrange an assessment in the child's first language.
- 9.5. SEN support will be decided on an individual basis in the manner outlined within the school's SEND Policy.
- 9.6. The school will ensure that the parents or carers of a pupil with SEN are not prevented from presenting their views throughout the process and are clearly informed at every stage.

10. Monitoring progress

- 10.1. The monitoring of pupils' progress is shared between all teachers, both mainstream and EAL support.
- 10.2. Individual pupil profiles are updated following assessments and reviewed on a termly basis to identify and address problems.
- 10.3. Pupils are also encouraged to set their own targets and objectives to bolster self-esteem and increase accountability.

11. Policy review

- 11.1. This policy is reviewed every year by the Headteacher and the SENCO.

DATA PROTECTION

St Nicholas CE Primary School processes personal data, some of which will be sensitive personal data, in accordance with the data protection principles embodied in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The Academy complies with the requirements of the data protection legislation as detailed in the Trust Data Protection Policy.

All staff are aware of the principles of data protection and will not process personal data unless necessary. The Academy safeguards the personal data it collects through the operation of the Trust's data protection



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policy and processes and the IT policy. In addition, the Academy has taken steps to ensure that all its contracts that process data have the GDPR compliant provisions.