



EAL Policy

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Contents

English as an Additional Language Policy	3
Introduction	3
Aims	3
Key Principles for Additional Language Acquisition.....	4
Teaching and Learning	4
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	6
Parents/Carers and the Wider Community	7
Review and Evaluation of Policy	8



English as an Additional Language Policy

This policy applies to all pupils, including those in EYFS.

Introduction

This policy is a statement of our school's aims and strategies to ensure that pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) fulfil their potential.

Leicester High School is committed to making appropriate provision of teaching and resources for pupils for whom English is an additional language, and for raising the achievement of minority ethnic pupils who are at risk from underachievement. The school will identify individual pupils' needs; recognise the skills they bring to school and ensure equality of access to the curriculum.

Aims

This policy aims to raise awareness of the school's obligations and to support the planning, organisation, teaching and assessment procedures, and the use of resources and strategies to meet the needs of pupils who have English as an additional language (EAL) and to raise pupil achievement.

We aim to ensure that all EAL pupils can:

- Use English confidently and competently.
- Use English as a means of accessing learning across the curriculum.
- Where appropriate, make use of their knowledge of other languages and enrich the cultural landscape of LHS.



Key Principles for Additional Language Acquisition

- Effective use of language is crucial to the teaching and learning of every subject.
- The language demands of learning tasks need to be identified and planned for, with attention both to initial access and to extension.
- Access to learning requires attention to words and meanings embodied in each curriculum area. Meanings and understanding cannot always be assumed but need to be explored and checked.
- Teachers have a crucial role in modelling accurate uses of language.
- All pupils have entitlement to accessing the whole curriculum.
- Language is central to our identity. Therefore, teachers need to be aware of the importance of pupils' home languages and to build upon their existing knowledge and skills in work and play, particularly for EYFS pupils.
- Many concepts and skills depend upon, and benefit from, well-developed home language and literacy. Proficiency in home languages enhances subsequent acquisition of EAL.
- All languages, dialects, accents, and cultures are equally valued.

Teaching and Learning

Adaptive Planning for Teaching

The school will provide opportunities for adaptive learning in line with the needs of the individual EAL pupils in relation to the demands of the curriculum in the EYFS, Junior and Senior School phases.

Key features of language, which are necessary for effective participation, are identified. These might be key words, certain patterns of grammar, and uses of language or forms of text.

Literacy and Numeracy

Classroom and Form Time activities are carefully structured with clear learning objectives. Appropriate support and resources are deployed to ensure that all pupils can participate in lessons.

Staff review groupings and setting arrangements to ensure that EAL learners have access to strong English language peer models.

T&L Strategies

Staff support EAL pupils in the most appropriate way for their subjects and each pupil's progress. This may include support strategies such as:



- Use VISUALS – real objects, puppets, photographs, pictures, graphs, charts, slides, finished products as examples.
- MODEL answers – for example, help the pupil build up a one-word answer into a full sentence. Provide sentence starters and writing frames to scaffold tasks.
- LANGUAGE FOCUS – include a focus on a point of language to complement the lesson topic.
- QUESTIONING – ask appropriate questions. At beginner level, closed questions have their place. Gradually take the pupils through Blooms Taxonomy, using accessible language.
- PRE-TEACH – is a useful strategy, as it gives the pupil a head start on topics or lessons which are coming up (flipped classroom learning).
- Use of technology and accessibility features on Microsoft.



Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Information is gathered about:

- The pupil's linguistic background and competence in other languages
- The pupil's willingness to utilise their multi-linguistic backgrounds for the benefit of their education.
- The pupil's previous educational and school experience
- The pupil's family and biographical background

Staff regularly observe, access and record information about a pupil's developing use of language in EYFS and the Junior Department.

Whilst account is taken of EAL development, the school aims to set appropriate and challenging targets for individual pupils. These targets are reviewed on a regular basis by teaching staff to ensure all EAL pupils make consistent progress.

Learning Difficulties / Disabilities and Highly Able Pupils

The school recognises that most EAL pupils needing additional support do not have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). However, should SEND needs be identified during assessment, EAL pupils will have equal access to school SEND provision.

Similarly, the school recognises that there may be EAL pupils who are academically highly able even though they may not be fully fluent in English.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Staff have regular liaison to discuss pupil progress, needs, and targets.

The school will ensure that all EAL pupils have access to statutory assessments, using support and adaptations where appropriate.

Assessment methods are checked for cultural bias, and action is taken to remove any bias that is identified.

EAL pupils may use bi-lingual dictionaries in public examinations at the discretion of the examination board and in line with current JCQ criteria.



The school regularly evaluates the effectiveness of additional support provided in terms of pupil progress.

Assessment materials use images and texts that are appropriate for all pupils.

Resources

Resources on which reading, writing, and listening activities may be based are monitored for grammatical, lexical, and cultural accessibility. This includes online resources.

Displays, resources and Enrichment opportunities reflect linguistic and cultural diversity.

Parents/Carers and the Wider Community

We provide a welcoming admission process for the induction, assessment and support of new arrival pupils and their families/carers.

We take account of parent's/carer's linguistic, cultural, and religious backgrounds when planning the curriculum and developing home-school links.

We aim to ensure that our written and spoken communication with families and with the community is effective by using plain English. We welcome additional members of the family or friends to interpret at parents' evenings.



Staff Development

The school will enable all staff to receive training and support through regular updates by the SENDCo/Deputy Head Academic to ensure that provision for EAL pupils is appropriately delivered and co-ordinated.

Review and Evaluation of Policy

School data will include relevant information on minority ethnic/EAL pupils. This will include needs, level of English, support, achievement, and progress. This will enable the school to monitor targets.

The evaluation process will serve the basis for planning programmes of action and targeting time, support, and resources.

This policy will be reviewed by the Leadership Team on a rolling cycle.