



## Sandhill Primary School EAL Policy

This statement details our vision to identify and meet the needs of those pupils at Sandhill classed as 'English as an Additional Language' (commonly referred to as 'EAL'). That is, pupils who have a first/home language other than English and who are in the process of learning and using English as an additional language through the curriculum and the broader life of the school.

### **Aims**

Sandhill Primary School is committed to meeting the needs of pupils with English as an Additional Language.

Whilst being clear that EAL is not a 'special educational need' or a 'learning difficulty', the school acknowledges that pupils with EAL often have an additional need in terms of accessing the language used by staff and peers, and related learning issues, which can lead to underachievement and isolation.

Therefore we will endeavour at all times to:

- Ensure EAL pupils have full access to the curriculum (and other School opportunities).
- Be proactive in removing any barriers that stand in the way of our EAL pupils fulfilling their potential.
- Provide our EAL pupils – particularly those who are International New Arrivals - with a safe, welcoming environment where they are accepted, valued and encouraged to participate.

### **Terminology**

- EAL is an umbrella term that refers to any student learning and using English as an additional or second language.
- Within this, there is a more vulnerable group of pupils we term as 'International New Arrivals' → abbreviated as INA. This refers specifically to pupils who have entered the UK within the past two years.
- There are also a number of terms that can be useful when describing the background of EAL pupils:
  - 'first generation' – meaning they were born in another country and have since resettled in the UK with their family.
  - 'second or third generation' – meaning they were born in the UK into a migrant or 'dual-heritage' family.
  - 'migrant worker' – those who have moved for economic betterment.
  - 'asylum seeker' / 'refugee' – those who have moved to escape famine, persecution and other tragic events.

## **Context**

As of September 2014, 2.5% of pupils at Sandhill Primary School are identified as 'EAL' and speak a language other than English as their 'first' or 'common' language.

## **Key Principles**

For citizens and residents of the UK, acquisition of the English language is crucial to the fulfilling of academic potential/raising of economic prospects and being included in the daily life of the school community, and wider public society.

- EAL pupils will take approximately 5 – 7 years of English-speaking education to acquire academically-fluent English. This will occur naturally through a nurturing immersion rather than segregated intervention. The rate of acquisition can be maximised but not necessarily accelerated.
- EAL pupils have a temporary additional need which is primarily language acquisition – it is separate/distinct from typical additional needs but with crossover points. EAL pupils are not automatically SEN or 'special educational needs', and should not be labelled/treated in this way.
- EAL pupils are not automatically 'lower ability' – and should not be labelled / treated in this way.
- EAL pupils will have potential strengths as well as additional needs.
- There is a social-emotional and cultural dimension to catering for the needs of EAL pupils
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## **Roles and Responsibilities**

There is a collective responsibility, held by all staff, to identify and remove barriers that stand in the way of our EAL pupils' achievement and inclusion. Currently the designated 'EAL Co-ordinator' is the SENCO, Mr. Froggatt, who oversees development and day-to-day coordination of EAL provision.

Responsibilities of the designated 'EAL Coordinator' include:

- Identifying incoming EAL pupils, with support of the Staff Team.
- Bringing the presence and needs of current EAL pupils to the attention of colleagues.
- Responding to requests for information about EAL pupils.
- Ensuring that E.A.L. pupils are integrated into classes and have full access to the curriculum.
- Maintaining a register of EAL pupils.

## **Approach to Teaching & Learning**

- Most teachers will encounter pupils who do not use English as their first language at some stage. To be successful, we will have to nurture language development - as well as teaching our subject.
- Teacher may encounter pupils from other countries who will often have very different educational experiences in terms of length & focus and style of previous learning. To be successful, we will have coach pupils in how to learn - as well as teaching the specific area of learning.

- Potentially, every teacher will encounter pupils who having moved countries – are undergoing the challenge and stress of social integration. To be successful, we will have to build stable and productive social groups – as well as teaching our subject.

### **Placement**

We recognise that EAL pupils, who may be new to English and to the UK, need support and stability as they start school.

Without exception, we recognise that EAL pupils:

- Have a right to a full timetable, with equal access to the whole curriculum.
- Are best placed in groups with fluent English speakers who will provide them with good models of language.
- Should be seen in line with their intellectual/cognitive abilities first, language and literacy skills second.
- Are not automatically placed with Learning Support / SEN pupils for reasons of TA support or smaller groups.
- Are not placed in teaching groups based on one standalone test / assessment.

### **Admissions, Identification and Tracking**

The School recognises that background information on EAL pupils can often contain gaps and be inconsistent – it can also be a sensitive issue for some families. However, the building up of ‘learner profiles’ on EAL pupils’ linguistic background and previous educational experience is crucial in planning future support. This can also be said for information on reasons for moving countries and any possible past traumatic experiences.

### **Special Educational Needs and pupils working at a high level of attainment**

Should any EAL pupils be identified during assessment to have a special educational need, they will have equal access to appropriate provision in line with the SEND Policy.

Similarly, the School recognises that there may be EAL pupils who are working at a high level of attainment even though they may not be fully fluent in English.

### **Resources**

A range of resources are required to support pupils’ English language skills, key word lists, visual cues and a range of language & literacy interventions. This is currently an area for development for the SENCO.

### **CPD**

The School will ensure that all staff are provided with a minimum of annual access to CPD sessions focused on supporting EAL across the curriculum. These will be coordinated and delivered primarily by the SENCO.

The School will ensure those staff carrying out specific EAL roles access appropriate CPD programmes to develop their knowledge and skills. Training needs will be identified through Performance Management and Liaison Meetings.

### **Review and Evaluation of Policy**

School data will include relevant information on ethnic minority/EAL pupils and this will enable the School to monitor targets.

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

Written February 2015

Ben Froggatt (Inclusion Lead)