



Lawn Primary School

EAL Policy

September 2026

EAL Policy

At Lawn Primary School we are exceptionally proud of our pupils and value their abilities and achievements. We are confident that we provide a vibrant and stimulating learning environment that meets the needs of all our pupils. We want all our pupils to experience success in everything that they do, the school is fully committed to providing each pupil with the best possible learning environment for them to maximise their full potential.

THE EAL AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- We consider a child's home language to be a core element of their cultural identity.
- We aim to celebrate the range of languages spoken in the school and encourage continuing development in children's home languages alongside their acquisition of the English language.
- We aim to support children with English as an additional language (EAL) to make rapid progress in their English language development through a focus on the teaching of core vocabulary in each subject, so that they can access learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- We are committed to ensuring that accurate assessment ensures that pupils are provided with learning tasks that meet both their cognitive and English language needs.
- We have an inclusive approach to learning, and prioritise Quality First Teaching as the most effective way to enable EAL pupils to make the necessary progress required to diminish attainment differences with non-EAL pupils.
- Additional interventions will only be used in cases where it is determined that a child requires additional, not alternative, support to help them make the expected progress.

WHO IS THIS EAL POLICY FOR?

This policy should be referred to by all teaching, support and administrative staff who have contact with pupils and/or parents in the school. It informs strategic decision making by the senior leadership team, as well as day to day teaching and learning and interactions with parents and pupils of the school.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that EAL learners are provided with teaching and learning opportunities that enable them to make the best possible progress, within an accepting, inclusive and welcoming environment.

HOW IS EAL DEFINED?

Definition of English as an Additional Language taken from the Department for Education, 2019.

The term "EAL" is used to describe a diverse and heterogeneous group of learners who speak English as an Additional Language. In England, such learners are defined as those who have been 'exposed to a language at home that is known or believed to be other than English' (Department for Education, 2019).

Lawn Primary School's defines English as an Additional Language as those pupils where;

'A first language, where it is other than English, is recorded where a child was exposed to the language during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community. If a child has been exposed to more than one language (which may include English) during early development, the language other than English has been recorded as a first language, irrespective of the child's proficiency in English. (This in line with guidance outlined within the DfE School Census Guide 2016-2017, 2016 p.63)

Lawn Primary School's definition of the different stages of English as an Additional Language;

- A: New to English (requiring considerable support to access curriculum content)
- B: Early Acquisition (still need a significant amount of support to access the curriculum)
- C: Developing Competence (need ongoing support to access the curriculum fully)
- D: Competent (occasional support to access more complex curriculum material and tasks)
- E: Fluent (very little or no support required to access curriculum content and should be working at, or very near, age related expectations)

ADMISSIONS

The admission arrangements for ALL pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010.

INCLUSION

This policy builds on our School Inclusion Policy, which recognises the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our EAL policy reinforces the need for teaching that is fully inclusive. The Governing Body will ensure that appropriate provision will be made for all pupils with EAL.

EAL CONTEXT AT LAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lawn Primary School is situated in a leafy suburb of Derby, however due to its reputation as a successful school, it is a school of choice for many and draws pupils in all over the city as well as adjoining towns. Historically, a high number of EAL pupils attending Lawn Primary School have been fluent English speakers since entry due to being bilingual from birth. In recent years, the school has welcomed a growing number of families to our school community who possess little to no English upon arrival due to being new to the country.

Historically, Lawn Primary School has been host to a high number of English speaking European families but has more recently seen its community diversify to include a significant number of families of Indian, African and Pakistani heritage.

Assessment of EAL learners is based upon the Bell Foundation Assessment Framework. Those who are New to English can be described as working at band A. As a general rule, New to English learners tend to be in their first two years of learning.

The following information represents a typical approximation of the general school context:

- Over 23 different languages are spoken by pupils attending our School.
- Approximately 16% of EAL pupils in the school speak Cantonese.
- Approximately 10% of EAL pupils in the school speak Polish.
- Approximately 10% of EAL pupils in the school speak Spanish.
- Approximately 12% of EAL pupils in the school speak Italian.
- Approximately 11% of pupils are classed as EAL
- Approximately 23.5% of EAL learners also qualify for Pupil Premium
- Approximately 4% of EAL learners are also identified as having SEND
- A small number of EAL learners are at a developing stage of learning English (ie at stage C in their English Proficiency); currently around 7% of EAL pupils are at this level and require adaptations within the curriculum
- Approximately 11% of EAL learners are at an early stage of learning English (ie at stages A and B in their English Proficiency) and require significant or ongoing support to access the curriculum.
- The majority of our EAL learners at Lawn are working at either a fluent level of learning English (63%) or a competent stage of learning English (22%)

IDENTIFICATION

At Lawn Primary School we have adopted a whole-school approach to EAL policy and practice. All staff are committed to the principles and aims of this policy. Pupils identified as having EAL are, as far as it is practicable, fully integrated into mainstream classes. Every effort is made to ensure that they have full access to the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and are integrated into all aspects of the school. All teachers are responsible for identifying pupils with EAL and, in collaboration with the EAL Lead and EAL learning support assistant, will ensure that those pupils requiring different or additional support are identified at an early stage. Assessment is the process by which pupils with EAL can be identified.

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

We believe that the following should be in place in order to optimise the potential for second language acquisition for pupils with EAL:

- A welcoming and inclusive environment which celebrates ethnic and lingual diversity.
- Opportunities for pupils to explore ideas and new learning in their home language as well as in English.
- The continuing development of home language being seen as equally important as the development of English language skills.
- An inclusive curriculum, where EAL learners have access to high quality modelling of English language speaking by the adults around them.
- High expectations for all learners, regardless of their English language proficiency, where effective differentiation enables all pupils to access learning at a level appropriate for their cognitive and developmental needs.

GRADUATED RESPONSE AND EAL

The school adopts the levels of intervention as described in the SEND Code of Practice. The Code of Practice advocates a graduated response to meeting pupils' needs. At Lawn Primary School, we have adopted a graduated response to meeting the needs of learners with EAL to ensure we are regularly reviewing the support in place for those acquiring English as an additional language.

The support provided consists of a four part process.

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an on-going cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the acquisition of the language progresses. This cycle enables identification of those interventions which are most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good levels of progress and outcomes.

ASSESS

Initial Assessment

New arrivals to the school who have English as an additional language (EAL) are assessed in the following areas, after a settling in period of a couple of weeks, at the school:

- Phonics awareness (English)
- Flash Academy Assessment tool based on the Bell Foundation Language Acquisition Bandings.

Proficiency in English Assessment

Teachers assess the Proficiency in English (PiE) of EAL pupils in their class three times per year; at the end of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. This assessment is completed using the Flash Academy Assessment tool which is supported by the Bell Foundation EAL Assessment descriptors and establishes whether a child is:

A: New to English

Pupils:

- Engage in highly scaffolded listening activities, learning basic classroom language
- and linking sounds to actions and meanings
- Show emerging competence in basic oral expression
- Demonstrate little or no knowledge of written English; taking first steps to engage
- with written and digital texts in English
- Demonstrate competence in managing basic, simple and isolated phrases
- Require considerable support to access curriculum content

B: Early Acquisition

Pupils:

- Show a developing autonomy in processing speech
- Show emerging competence in the ability to respond verbally in interactions with others

- Make sense of written text at word and phrase/sentence level, using visual information to help decipher meaning
- Demonstrate competence in producing simple sentences and paragraphs on familiar topics conforming to taught expectations
- Still need a significant amount of support to access the curriculum

During the New to English and Early Acquisition stages, the focus for teaching and support should be on effective communication and 'meaning making'. At these stages fluency and building confidence is more important than accuracy.

C: Developing Competence

Pupils in the English education system who are Developing Competence, have typically been learning English for between two and five years.

At this stage learners would typically be confident in communicating in English and would be starting to develop more control of functional language. Their spoken English, however, may not be particularly accurate, with surface errors sometimes continuing for a number of years.

Pupils:

- Show developing independence in the use of basic listening skills needed to engage with learning
- Demonstrate emerging competence in spontaneous expression and communication
- Draw on growing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to engage with curriculum and related texts and tasks
- Demonstrate competence in describing and narrating personal experiences with greater accuracy and beginning to experiment with more sophisticated writing in a variety of genres in different curriculum contexts
- Need ongoing support to access the curriculum fully

At this stage, the focus for teaching and support should be about increasing range and accuracy of language use. EAL learners who are Developing Competence need to be encouraged to notice key features of English and self-correct.

D: Competent

Pupils:

- Apply listening skills over an increasing range of contexts and functions
- Demonstrate competence in producing more varied and complex speech in a wider range of contexts
- Engage with curriculum related reading activities independently and productively in different subject areas
- Demonstrate competence in controlling the content and structure of writing with greater accuracy and with a fuller range of vocabulary and grammar
- Need occasional support to access more complex curriculum material and tasks

E: Fluent

Pupils:

- Demonstrate confidence in writing accurately and independently in a variety of genres
- Engage with curriculum-related reading activities independently and productively in different subject areas
- Show competence in fluent, creative use of spoken English
- Show an ability to understand and respond to spoken communication in classroom and school contexts with little or no hindrance

- Need very little or no support required to access curriculum content and should be working at, or very near, age related expectations

At the Competent and Fluent stages, the focus for teaching and support should be about promoting more sophisticated uses of language, exploring how to control of genre and register, and varying style and format to adapt to different requirements and contexts.

These assessments are saved on the school's information management system (ScholarPack) and help to support leadership decision making, for example the allocation of resources and deployment of support staff.

Statutory Assessments

The school carries out the following statutory assessments:

- EYFS: Assessment of Early Learning Goals
- Year 1: Phonics Assessments
- Year 2: SATS in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Year 4: Multiplication Check
- Year 6: SATS in Reading, Writing, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

All pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage are assessed against the Early Learning Goals at the end of their Reception Year. Early Learning Goals for 'Literacy' and 'Communication and Language' must be assessed in English, but the other areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum can be assessed in a pupil's home language. To support this, assessment is supported through the use of visuals where appropriate.

In some cases, it is not appropriate for a child who is very new to English to sit statutory tests, as they do not have enough English language to access the test. Teachers will make the decision on whether to disapply a child with EAL from statutory assessments based on their judgement of whether it is suitable for their needs. This decision is then ratified by the school SLT.

The school follows statutory testing guidance and provides approved support to help pupils with EAL to access tests including, where guidance allows, the provision of translators and/or readers e.g. in maths assessments, additional time (for pupils with low writing or reading speed) and scribes.

Internal Assessments

The school carries out termly assessments in Reading, Writing, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (see Assessment Policy for further information). If a pupil with EAL is unable to access the tests provided, teachers instead provide a teacher assessment level as well as complete the Flash Academy Assessment to monitor their progress in language acquisition. This is supported by their knowledge of the pupils' performance in class, as well as other assessments such as half termly Little Wandle, Language/Speech link assessments.

PLAN AND DO

Across school, classes are taught based on year group classes and we currently have two classes in every year group. In EYFS/ FS2 there is more fluidity between the classes and children move between the two settings throughout the day.

We use the Little Wandle synthetic phonics programmes for our delivery of phonics and spelling across Key Stage 1 and teach separate Spelling sessions across Key Stage 2. These sessions occur in phases and groupings are determined by age and year group.

Within year groups, we initially focus on language immersion and strong modelling of spoken English skills by adults for our EAL pupils. Teaching and Learning staff then use a variety of strategies to support EAL learners to access the curriculum in addition to this. These strategies include but are not limited to:

- The use of visuals and opportunities for oral rehearsal to support understanding and language development (e.g. Widgit)
- Focus on the explicit teaching of vocabulary (e.g. Language Link, talking toolkit, Colourful Semantics)
- Use of peer support from 'same language buddies'
- Effective feedback, including recasting/remodelling of spoken English.
- Pre and post teaching of key skills and vocabulary for pupils that require additional support.
- The use of specific language intervention for pupils with EAL that are not making the expected progress in English language development and have been assessed as requiring additional support (e.g. identified SEND including speech and language difficulties). These include Speech and Language Link.

Teachers have high expectations of all pupils, and plan work in order to meet the cognitive and language needs of each child. The focus is on enabling EAL pupils to make the progress necessary in order to help them close any attainment gap they may have in comparison to non-EAL peers.

Classroom organisation supports independent learning by ensuring resources are easily accessible for all pupils. All classes should ensure that resources are clearly labelled, and labels should include images of resources to reinforce this language development.

Higher achieving EAL pupils should be supported in their learning by effective adaptations which matches learning to pupils' cognitive needs. The Flash Academy assessment tool which is based on the Bell Foundation assessment materials is used to identify next steps in language learning for all EAL pupils until they achieve assessment band E in overall fluency, ensuring that teachers have a clear understanding of EAL language progression.

The teaching of vocabulary underpins learning in all areas of the curriculum and school life. Teaching and Learning staff should maximise every opportunity for language learning, in both planned and incidental interactions with pupils i.e. whether within lessons or in the dinner hall.

REVIEW

In addition to the standard assessments used within school (please refer to the Assessment Policy), pupils with EAL are also assessed in line with the DfE Proficiency in English codes three times a year (Autumn, Spring and Summer assessment points). These assessments are supported by the Bell Foundation Assessment and Flash Academy Assessment.

Proficiency in English levels are compared to a child's length of time in English schooling, and targets are set based on the aim of supporting children with EAL to develop Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) within five years. Research suggests that "It takes learners at least five years to develop CALP. Research from Collier and Thomas (1995) has shown that it may take children with

no prior instruction or no support in native language development at least seven years to develop CALP."

We also aim to ensure that pupils with EAL are able to develop their Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) in English in between six months to two years. "Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) refer to linguistic skills needed in everyday, social face-to-face interactions. For instance, the language used in the playground, on the phone, or to interact socially with other people is part of BICS. The language used in these social interactions is context embedded. That is, it is meaningful, cognitively undemanding, and non-specialised. It takes the learner from six months to two years to develop BICS."

The curriculum is adapted where necessary to ensure that pupils with EAL access learning at a level appropriate to their language and cognitive needs. For example, the dual coding resources available via Widget allow a range of age appropriate images to be created to build up talking, reading and writing for New to English classes to use to support learning in English lessons.

RESOURCES

Staffing

The school also deploys an allocated learning support assistant to work across the school to support the delivery of interventions and small group teaching for those with EAL. Interventions and small group teaching delivered by this staff member are transient, reviewed regularly and adapt to meet the changing and developing needs of children with EAL. They regularly assess the progress children with EAL are making with their language acquisition and adapt the support they receive, liaising with the class teacher to ensure continuity of expectation and support. The aim is for all children to access quality first teaching but we are aware that as part of a child's language acquisition journey, they may need varying levels of additional support.

Dual Language Resources

The school is able to access dual language books via the ELS school library service to provide texts in a number of the school's community languages.

Visual Support

Widget is used to make visual resources which enable pupils with limited English proficiency to access the curriculum, as well as to navigate day to day school life (for example choosing which lunch they would like during morning registration).

All classes have consistent visual timetables, to support classroom organisation.

Peer Support

As part of the school's Global citizenship curriculum, all children throughout the school are taught about immigrations and the difficulties people face when coming to a new country to live. This helps children to be aware of the difficulties faced by new arrivals to the school. As part of our annual 'Languages day' children learn strategies they can use to communicate with children who speak a different language, and to help new pupils to settle in to school. Where possible and appropriate, new pupils with EAL are buddied with another child who shares their home language.

Intervention Groups

The school does not have intervention groups specifically for EAL pupils.

Intervention is based on assessment of pupil learning needs, and interventions in school include:

- First class at number, B-Squared interventions, GAPS based on termly NTS tests (for pupils working near or just below an age-related level)
- Little Wandle Phonics interventions
- Speech and Language Link intervention
- A range of Physical Literacy programmes
- Pre and post teaching of key learning (based on ongoing assessment for learning)

Pupil Premium and EAL

A small percentage of the school's pupil premium pupils are also EAL. Pupil Premium funding is deployed based on analysis of barriers to learning for disadvantaged learners and is not spent on a pupil by pupil basis.

Research has shown that the most effective way to raise attainment is through quality first teaching. A significant proportion of Pupil Premium Funding is therefore focused on staff CPD. It is our view that teaching strategies which support learners with EAL to access the curriculum in fact benefit all learners.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At Lawn Primary School we are very clear that SEN and EAL are not the same. If a child with EAL is making slower than expected progress we first consider the following factors:

- **Language proficiency**
The child may be learning slowly due to limited experience in English. They may not have established sufficient proficiency in any language yet or, they may not be learning because their level of BICs has misled the teacher into setting tasks that are too abstract for the child's language level.
- **Environmental stress factors**
These could be hindering learning both in and out of school. Examples are that the child may be experiencing racism either at home or at school or they may be stressed or traumatised. The family may be under a lot of stress, may have moved frequently/recently or there may be conflicting demands in the home. It may be that the environment in the school is not inclusive and understanding.
- **Access to the curriculum**
There may be barriers created by the school that mean the child is not able to access the curriculum effectively. For example, the child may be discouraged from using his/her first language, there may be few visuals or gestures or the child may have been placed in an inappropriate set.

It is important to work through the list of possible hypotheses for the child's perceived learning difficulties and to keep a thorough record, including recording where information is not known.

Once other reasons for slow progress have been investigated, further assessments are used to identify specific learning needs for pupils with EAL. These include:

- Speech and Language Link (where possible carried out with the support of a translator to assess proficiency in the child's home language)
- Non-verbal ability tests
- Lucid Rapid dyslexia screening tool
- Fine motor control handwriting assessment
- Physical literacy assessment
- Maths assessment

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Lawn Primary School firmly believes in developing a strong partnership with parents and that this will enable children and young people with EAL to achieve their potential. The school recognises that parents have a unique overview of their child's needs, and that this gives them a key role in the partnership.

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

Parents are welcomed to the school during their child's initial induction meeting. They have a tour of the school and are provided with key documents which explain the school's expectations (for example, of attendance, uniform and behaviour and daily school routines and organisation).

These documents are supported by visuals as we understand that many parents may speak little, or no English.

The school uses a variety of methods to maintain ongoing communication with parents including:

- The translation of letters home (where necessary)
- Text messaging
- Google Translate on the school's website
- There are numerous opportunities each year for parents to become involved in the life of the school which include:
 - Workshops delivered by teachers to explain aspects of teaching (e.g. Little Wandle Phonics Workshops)
 - Pupil performances (e.g. Rock Steady and class assemblies)
 - Curriculum open days

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

EAL Coordinator

The EAL Coordinator, alongside the EAL Specialists, are responsible for monitoring the progress and attainment of pupils with English as an additional language through; lesson visits, pupil and parent voice, book scrutinies and analysis of assessment data.

They review and adapt the initial assessment and induction procedure to ensure it continues to meet the needs of pupils as well as providing the information needed by teachers to inform their planning.

The EAL Coordinator supports teaching staff by organising and/or delivering staff CPD in response to any issues arising from monitoring.

The EAL Coordinator attends EAL Network Meetings to ensure they remain informed about best practice in this area, and this information is disseminated to senior leaders and teaching staff as appropriate.

Teachers

Teachers are responsible for the attainment and progress of pupils with EAL in their class. They should raise any concerns over pupil progress with the SENDCo and EAL Coordinator.

Teachers are responsible for adapting the curriculum and providing resources to enable children with EAL to access learning.

EVALUATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR EAL POLICY

The EAL Governor will meet at least annually with the EAL Coordinator and the governor will report annually on the success of the policy against the specific objectives which are given under 'The EAL Aims of the School' at the beginning of this policy. The school adopts the Revise, Revisit, Refine and Refresh approach to ensure that the school is successfully meeting the needs of EAL pupils and parents, as well as suitable training and supporting staff.

This policy was reviewed by the EAL Coordinator in April 2025 and will be reviewed again in September 2026.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents are encouraged to discuss any problems or concerns they may have with school. These should be raised initially with the pupil's class teacher as most problems can be resolved in this way, but if this does not happen, parents may raise concerns with the EAL Coordinator and/or the Head teacher. If the issue cannot be resolved the parents may follow school's Complaints Policy.

The EAL team at the school is:

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Phillips

EAL Coordinator: Mr A Phillips