



## **EAL Policy**

### **Statement of Commitment**

At Thorpe Acre Infant School, we are committed to ensuring that every child succeeds and reaches their full potential. To this end, we are dedicated to raising the achievement and attainment of pupils with EAL enabling them to do the best they can within a positive, supportive, secure and safe learning environment.

### **What is EAL?**

EAL means English as an Additional Language - when a pupil speaks a home language other than English.

### **Purposes**

- To promote equality of opportunity for all learners for whom English is an additional language.
- To deliver a broad, balanced curriculum which reflects the needs of children for whom English is an additional language.
- To ensure EAL pupils reach their full potential

### **Background**

- over 25% of pupils speak English as an additional language.
- there are at least 10 different languages
- A proportion of our pupils have arrived from other countries with no or very little understanding of English.
- approx. 25% of our pupils are in receipt of free school meals.
- there is significant income deprivation within our community of families
- We are constantly developing the partnership between staff and parents as we understand how important this relationship is to the children's learning.

### **In school we aim to:**

- Provide a welcoming environment in which pupils will learn most effectively.
- Provide support to pupils with EAL needs.
- Plan and teach lessons using learning styles most appropriate to EAL learners.
- Provide an inclusive curriculum.
- Promote home languages across school and encourage and support discussion of learning (in home language) at home.
- Ensure pupils are making progress and are able to access the school curriculum.
- Support pupils who are at risk of under achieving.
- Celebrate pupils achievements in school as well as in extra-curricular activities.

*This policy aims to support our planning, organisation, teaching and assessment procedures and to support the use of resources and strategies, in order to meet the needs of pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL). Our goal is to promote language awareness and raise pupil attainment, progress and achievement.*

### **Planning and Teaching for pupils with EAL needs**

Teachers consider the needs of bilingual learners in their planning and teaching. In class, pupils are taught to learn using a variety of strategies. Pupils learn independently, as a whole class, in pairs, in groups and through collaborative activities. Children are encouraged to explore a range of learning styles - visual, auditory and kinaesthetic – and resources are prepared to reflect the needs of individuals across each class. Pupils are encouraged to share languages with their peers.

At Thorpe Acre Infant School, we place great emphasis on 'Talk for Writing' activities, which underpin the development of language for oral and written communication. Across school, we use consistent symbols through our marking codes and follow Pie Corbett's approaches in English, eg: story mapping. Guided talk and the use of visual stimulus is of particular benefit to our EAL learners.

### **The following 'strategies' for working with children new to English will be considered:**

- Provide lots of hands on experience so children can learn the new language through participating in activities that support cognitive development.
- Teach newly arrived child useful words and phrases (enabling language) and the routines of the classroom in order for them to communicate with their peer group.
- Additional visual support is provided e.g. Visual timetable, communication fans, gestures, pictures, photographs, posters, objects and demonstrations.
- Classroom activities have clear language and learning objectives, use of appropriate resources and support where available to enable pupils to participate and access the curriculum in all areas.
- Key language features are identified in all curriculum areas for e.g. language structures, key vocabulary and forms of text.
- Create a language rich environment.
- Display positive images of people from ethnic minorities.