

St Thomas à Becket Catholic College
EAL Policy ~ September 2009

Statement of Aims

The College is committed to making appropriate provision in 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 college will identify individual pupil's needs, recognise the skills he/she brings to college and ensure equality of access to the curriculum. This policy should be read in conjunction with the College Admission, Race Equality, Behaviour and Discipline and Bullying policies.

We aim to ensure that all EAL pupils are able to:

- use English confidently and competently;
- use English as a means of learning across the curriculum;
- where appropriate, make use of their knowledge of other languages;
- where possible and appropriate, to follow a G.C.S.E examination in the home/first language.

The Context of the College

8.7. % of pupils have a home language in addition to English.
16 pupils are identified as needing EAL support.

Key Principles for Additional Language Acquisition

- Language develops best when used in purposeful contexts across the curriculum.
- 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 understandings cannot always be assumed but need to be explored.
- Teachers have a crucial role in modelling uses of language.
- The focus and use of additional support time are best seen as an integral part of curriculum and lesson planning.
- All pupils have entitlement to the National Curriculum.
- The college applies the three principles of inclusion as identified in the National Curriculum Handbook.
- A distinction is made between EAL and Special Educational Needs.
- Language is central to our identity, therefore, teachers need to be aware of the importance of pupils' home languages and to build on their existing knowledge and skills.
- Many concepts and skills depend on and benefit from well-developed home language and literacy in home language enhances subsequent acquisition of EAL.
- All languages, dialects, accents and cultures are equally valued.

Teaching and Learning

Planning and Differentiation:

The College will provide a system for staff to share planning with support staff. Plans will identify the demands of the National Curriculum and provide differentiated opportunities matched to individual EAL pupils' needs.

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

Literacy and Numeracy:

Classroom activities must be carefully structured and focused to take account of the range of purposes and audiences set out in the Order for English. Classroom activities must have clear learning objectives and appropriate support and resources must be deployed to ensure that pupils are able to participate in lessons. Staff should review groupings and setting arrangements to ensure that EAL learners have access to strong English language peer models.

Strategies

Staff use support strategies to ensure curriculum access:

- Collaborative group work.
- Enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening.
- Effective role models of speaking, reading and writing.
- Additional verbal support-repetition, alternative phrasing, peer support..
- Additional visual support, e.g. posters, objects, non-verbal clues, pictures, demonstration, use of gesture, etc.
- Bilingual resources, e.g. dictionaries, on-line support, bilingual staff/pupils, texts, key word lists.
- Writing frames, directed activities related to texts (DARTs).
- Opportunities for role play.
- Pupils receive regular feedback from staff.
- Opportunities are taken to focus on the cultural knowledge explicit or implicit in texts.
- Discussion is provided before and during reading and writing activities, using preferred language where appropriate.
- Where possible, learning progression moves from concrete to abstract.
- Further support for pupils' language development is provided outside the formal curriculum, e.g. in assemblies, college clubs, homework clubs, etc.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Information will be gathered about:

- the pupils' linguistic background and competence in other languages;
- the pupils' previous educational and schooling experience;
- the pupils' family and biographical background.

The pupils' level of English will be identified with reference to Stages of English as an Additional Language and with reference to the National Curriculum. This information will be forwarded to the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service once a term.

Staff will regularly observe, assess and record information about pupils' developing use of language.

Whilst account is taken of EAL development, the college aims to set appropriate and challenging targets for individual pupils. These targets are reviewed on a regular basis.

Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented Pupils

The college recognises that most EAL pupils needing additional support do not have SEN needs. However, should SEN needs be identified during assessment, EAL pupils will have equal access to college SEN provision. Similarly, the college recognises that there may be EAL pupils who are gifted or talented 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 with half-termly case conferences. The college will ensure that all EAL pupils have access to statutory assessments, making full use of special arrangements including first language assessment/support where appropriate. Assessment methods are checked for cultural bias and action is taken to remove any bias that is identified. The college analyses EAL/Minority Ethnic pupil achievement and regularly evaluates the effectiveness of additional support provided in terms of pupil progress.

Resources

Resources on which reading and writing activities may be based are monitored for grammatical, lexical and cultural accessibility. Displays and resources reflect linguistic and cultural diversity; a range of resources are used to support pupils' linguistic development, e.g. games, visual materials, differentiated worksheets, key word lists, bilingual dictionaries, taped materials, computer software, etc. Assessment materials will use images and texts which are appropriate for all pupils.

Parents/Carers and the Wider Community

We provide a welcoming admission process for the induction, assessment and support of newly arrived pupils and their families/carers. We take account of parents'/carers' linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds when planning the curriculum and developing home-college links. We aim to ensure that our written and spoken communication with families and with the community is effective through the use of plain English, translators and interpreters. We also aim to work closely with members of the wider community to support our EAL pupils.

Staff Development

The College will enable all staff to undertake professional development to ensure that provision for EAL pupils is appropriately delivered and co-ordinated. The Startegic Plan will incorporate action plans and reviews relating to raising the achievement of minority ethnic/EAL pupils.

Review and Evaluation of Policy

College data will include relevant information on minority ethnic/EAL pupils; this will include needs, level of English, support, achievement and progress. This information will enable the College 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 in September 2010.