

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

As a school, The PACE Centre caters for complex physical and learning needs of each individual child through in depth assessment and a differentiated curriculum based around the core principle of conductive education. In this respect, for a child to have 'English as an additional language' (EAL), this, in most cases, will be one piece of the complex puzzle that makes up that child's personal profile.

Statement of Commitment

- This 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 under-achievement.
- The school will identify individual pupil's needs, recognise the skills they bring to school and ensure equality of access to the curriculum.

Context of the School

- Including British Sign Language (BSL), there are seven languages spoken by children and their families at The PACE Centre (Tamil, Albanian, Urdu, Italian, Punjabi, Somali and British Sign Language - BSL.)
- 26% of pupils have a home language in addition to English.
- 0 new arrivals/refugees have entered our school in the past 2 years.

Rationale

All staff at The PACE Centre school believe that all children have an equal right to a quality education which provides a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum in a friendly and stimulating environment and to which all children have full and proper access, whatever their background or cultural identity.

We consider that a pupil who has English as an Additional Language (EAL), also referred to as bilingual, is one who has access to, or needs to use, two or more languages at home and at school. The pupil may not necessarily be fluent, competent or literate in either language.

Aims

The PACE Centre 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 pupil who are at risk from under achieving.

The school will identify individual pupil's needs, recognise the skills they bring to school and ensure quality of access to the curriculum.

The PACE Centre aims to achieve a multicultural ethos by raising awareness of other cultures and languages, (whilst retaining a pride in the country and language that also unites us) so that all pupils feel welcomed and a part of the school community.

Teaching and learning

Planning - The PACE Centre School will identify the language demands of the curriculum and provide differentiated learning opportunities matched to EAL pupils' needs. A broad range of visual and interactive resources to support communication and the development of vocabulary are used to support language development.

Literacy and Numeracy - EAL pupils are entitled to full access to the National Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum tailored to meet their individual needs, via the PACE integrated Curriculum.

EAL Resources

The school will aim to provide appropriate resources, display material to reflect a multicultural ethos.

Admissions

The PACE Centre is committed to equal opportunities and has a clear admissions policy which does not discriminate according to any factor such as race, colour, sex, or disability.

The school will provide a welcoming admission process to both child and parent. The school will provide support and accessibility to all parents of ethnic minority background, ensuring knowledge of the school, its procedures and aims. The school will liaise with the parents regarding their children's progress. The school encourages staff to act as interpreters and translators where possible and appropriate.

The PACE Centre aims to integrate children into school, taking into consideration the importance of peer support and also recognising the value of the child's first language and previous learning experiences. The PACE Centre also recognises the importance of maintaining the use of first language. Research has shown that development of the first language assists in the acquisition of an additional language.

Parental involvement

The school will promote parental involvement as a valuable resource, ensuring good communication and providing links with the community.

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Reviewed by: Claire Smart