



SSMJ POLICY FOR

English as Additional Language (EAL)

Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another to be the best we can be.

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English as Additional Language Policy 2025

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'And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues'

Mark 16:17

Introduction

The Governors, Headteacher and staff of St. Michael and St. John's are committed to the provision of a high quality education based upon the teaching of the Roman Catholic faith, the National Curriculum and the recommendations laid down by the Schools Commission of the Diocese of Salford.

The school aims to encourage the personal development of each individual to ensure that they achieve their full potential in every aspect of their life. It also aims to provide all its pupils with a firm educational and moral foundation upon which they can build the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will prepare them for the responsibilities and opportunities presented by further education and adult life according to Gospel values.

At St Michael & St John's RC Primary School we recognise and value our pupil's home language, background, and the valuable contribution that pupils who speak English as an additional language bring to our school. Within the family homes various languages are spoken (not including dialects). We recognise bilingualism as a strength, and we respond positively to pupil's ability to speak other languages by building on pupil's knowledge of other cultures and languages. We believe that cultural and linguistic diversity is a rich resource for the whole school. We take a whole school approach, through our Ethos, curriculum and promoting language awareness across our school.

We aim to meet the full range of needs for those children who are learning English as an additional language, in line with the requirements of the 1976 Race Relations Act.

Aims and Objectives:

- To improve the speaking and listening, reading, writing and understanding of children for whom English is an additional language.
- To be proactive in removing barriers that stand in the way of our EAL pupil's learning and success.
- To provide any newly arrived children with a safe and welcoming environment.
- To gather accurate information about children's backgrounds and educational experiences and share this with all members of staff.
- To use all resources possible to raise the attainment levels of the children for whom English is an additional language.
- To make maximum use of opportunities to model fluent use of English and provide opportunities for children to practise and extend their use of English.
- To encourage and enable parental support in improving children's attainment.
- To ensure that all children's languages cultures and identities are celebrated.
- To provide our EAL pupils with a safe, welcoming, nurturing environment where they are accepted, valued, and encouraged to participate.

Learn... We encourage our children to achieve their true potential and to take full advantage of all opportunities offered to equip them for their spiritual and educational journey.

Love... We believe that each child is a unique creation belonging to God and made in His image. We want our children to recognise this, as they develop their self-esteem and build relationships.

Respect... We support our children in appreciating their individual talents and in valuing the gifts given to others. We encourage the children to recognise that they are all equally valued within school and the wider community.

Intent:

Our school aims to offer a secure and stimulating environment which meets the needs of individual pupils. We believe that all pupils are entitled to receive the support and necessary to help them to develop their full potential. At St Michael and St John's the curriculum will be taught across the key stages and in ways that enable each child to access it equally. Each child regardless of ethnic group, age, disability, special educational needs and gender will have access to this curriculum. It is our aim that a wide range of activities be planned and organised that will stimulate our pupils' interests, instil a love of learning and make children aware of the contributions made to the curriculum by role models from diverse cultures. The needs of pupils where English is an additional language are acknowledged as part of our overall inclusion policy. We believe in promoting inclusion and equality of opportunity.

St Michael and St John's is an inclusive school. We are committed to making appropriate provision of teaching and resources for pupils for whom English is an additional language. We recognise and address the specific needs of all pupils. The school will identify individual pupil's needs, recognise the skills they bring to school and ensure equality of access to the curriculum. To help support Parents of children with EAL we have created a webpage to help Parents.

<https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/eal/>

At SSMJ we will strive to raise the attainment of minority ethnic pupils by:

- Giving pupils with EAL, access to the curriculum, which is mainly in English, as quickly as possible.
- Providing EAL pupils with frequent opportunities to hear and read good models of English.
- Planning appropriate activities to extend their knowledge and use of English in different contexts.
- Providing additional in-class and withdrawal support to EAL pupils as appropriate to their development and needs.

- Developing an understanding of pupils' home languages and celebrating this through school initiatives.
- Using visual and auditory resources and the practice of Quality First Teaching.
- Assessing pupils with EAL to establish their need and progress.
- Ensuring pupils use English confidently and competently as a means of learning across the curriculum.
- Making use of their knowledge of other languages to enhance the understanding of the whole school community, as appropriate.

Key Principles for Additional Language Acquisition

- All pupils have entitlement to the National Curriculum.
- Language is central to our identity. All languages, dialects, accents and cultures are equally valued and encouraged.
- Teachers have a crucial role in modelling uses of language.
- 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; literacy in home language enhances subsequent acquisition of EAL. 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.

New Pupils Arriving at SSMJ

- All new parents and pupils meet with the Head Teacher and the class teacher they will be joining. This meeting includes a tour of the school and other classes in order to meet other pupils and class teachers. Other members of staff may lead the tour of the school.
- On joining the school, parents of all pupils will complete forms which gather data on languages spoken at home; details of previous schooling, in the UK and/or abroad; religious and cultural background in addition to other relevant data.
- The administration staff are available to support parents with the completion of these forms.
- Class teachers will be advised of new arrivals in advance.
- On the first morning at school, class teachers will clarify procedures such as lining up at start of day and pick up at end of day. Teachers will also assign new pupils a buddy who will support the child throughout the first week [longer if necessary]. The buddy will ensure that the new pupil has a friend to play with at play times and direct them to the toilet, canteen, etc.
- All school staff, including class teachers, teaching assistants and Lunch-Break Supervisors will be made aware of the linguistic needs of new EAL pupils.

- Early Stage EAL pupils in KS 1 will be given frequent opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills. This also allows them to improve their social interaction in an environment where they can choose from a range of child initiated activities including role play, painting, construction, puzzles, exploring science and materials and more.
- Further support for pupils' language development is provided outside the formal curriculum in the form of assemblies, school clubs and community visitors.
- All staff should refer to the EAL file on one drive (SEN Folder) for initial assessment procedures. Staff should speak to the Subject Leaders and SENDCO for advice on different areas and current/best practice for assessment.

Identification and assessment of pupils & strategies for ensuring continuity and progress

- Class teachers receiving new EAL pupils will arrange a familiarisation meeting with the parents to gather further information including any specific language needs the child might have and the level of English spoken by the parents and family. This meeting will also be an opportunity for teachers to clarify school/class routines.
- Class teachers identify and assess the need for support for pupils using a variety of data including teacher assessment, individual pupil targets, attendance and behaviour monitoring and consultation with parents.
- When making assessments, teachers should be aware of the possibility that pupils with EAL may demonstrate an ability to read to a given standard without a corresponding level of understanding.
- Pupils whom are considered to need an individualised programme will be set individual targets on an EAL Action Plan which will be compiled and monitored by the class teacher.
- Early Stage bilingual learners will be assessed, supported and monitored by the class teacher with the support of Subject Leaders, Language Lead, SENDCO and SLT.
- The class teacher will analyse data and track progress of EAL pupils and identify trends and next steps to raise standards and achievement.
- Reporting to parents will be undertaken formally each half term through parent consultations and a school report at the end of every full term (Autumn, Spring and Summer). Further meetings may be arranged by the class teacher or at the request of parents/carers.

Class Teachers are responsible for:

- Producing effective planning that identifies the key role of all support staff allowing for collaborative group work
- Providing frequent opportunities for speaking and listening
- Providing effective role models of speaking, reading and writing
- Providing additional verbal support e.g. repetition, alternative phrasing, peer support

- Offering additional visual support e.g. posters, objects, non-verbal clues, pictures, demonstration, use of gesture, etc.
- Making use of bilingual resources e.g. dictionaries, online support, bilingual pupils, texts, key word lists/mats, etc.
- Making writing frames available, appropriate to tasks • timetabling opportunities for role play
- Encouraging discussion before and during reading and writing activities, using home language where appropriate reviewing texts and speech in all subjects prior to teaching with a view to preparing for explanations of unfamiliar vocabulary and phrases.
- Using a variety of strategies to introduce a lesson e.g. oral, written, pictorial, graphical, etc.
- Correcting the use of children's grammar [spoken and written], as appropriate, and allowing them time to repeat corrections to the teacher.

Teaching Assistant are Responsible for:

- To support class teachers in providing opportunities for EAL pupils to access the curriculum to the best of their abilities.
- To welcome and support all families who speak English as a second language.
- To provide additional support to EAL pupils, sometimes alongside non EAL pupils, as appropriate, whether in the classroom, or in small groups outside the classroom.
- Create resources required to support the child.

Monitoring and Feedback:

Feedback to pupils about their own progress is achieved through the marking of work and the use of AfL strategies.

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/eal-programme/eal-assessment-framework/howdo-i-assess-an-eal-learner/>

Effective monitoring:

- Is often done while a task is being carried out through discussion between children and teacher
- Aims to help children learn by encouraging them to think critically about what they have achieved of written work is used sensitively and with discretion so that a child can assimilate a limited number of corrections at one time - this will vary according to age and ability.
- Early Stage Bilingual Learners will need frequent oral feedback with lots of gestures and facial expression. All learners will need lots of modelling so they have a visual picture of what is happening.
- Formative Assessment is mostly carried out informally by teachers in the course of their teaching. Suitable tasks for assessment include: small group discussions usually in the context of a practical task, focused teaching individually or in groups addressing EAL Action Plans.

The SLT, Language Lead and SENDCO will maintain oversee and revise the EAL Policy:

- Monitor the diversity of the curriculum
- Ensure that assessment and monitoring is taking place
- Provide opportunities for training for all staff; and liaise with outside agencies.

A range of quantitative data is available to assist in the monitoring process: the attainment of EAL examination grades and Teacher assessments on Lancashire Tracker, value-added analysis of-assessment data by ability group, target setting, school development planning, performance management structures and pupil progress meetings.

Links with Parents and Carers

We value parental involvement and especially their help and support with activities at home. The school will support parents' access to information by providing translations where necessary. We believe in supporting all our parents/carers so that they feel confident about approaching the school with any concerns or queries they may have. At SSMJ we recognise Parents of EAL children may need additional support with general items sent home for completing e.g. forms for trips, information about special days etc and class teachers will endeavour to provide this additional pastoral support. The school have created a webpage to help support Parents of EAL children. <https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/eal/>

