

Ysgol Gynradd Tairgwaith Primary School



EAL Policy

*Paratáu Pob Plentyn am Dyfodol Gwell
Preparing Every Child for a Better Future*

Tairgwaith Primary School

Policy on English as an Additional Language (EAL)

1 Introduction

1.1 In our school, all our children are important, and this applies to all aspects of their education – their teaching and learning, their achievements, their attitudes and their well-being. We encourage all our children to aim for the highest possible standards and we take account of each child's individual needs and experiences.

1.2 A small number of our children have particular requirements with regard to learning and assessment, and these are linked to their progress in learning English as an additional language.

1.3 Children who are learning English as an additional language have linguistic skills similar to those of monolingual English-speaking children. Their ability to participate in the full curriculum may well be in advance of their current ability to communicate in English.

1.4 Being a speaker of more than one language is no disadvantage to educational achievement; indeed, multilingualism is associated with success. This school recognises the importance of community languages in their own right, and the ability of their speakers to acquire other languages.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 Underlying the Curriculum for Wales is the entitlement of all children to access certain areas of learning, and thereby to acquire the knowledge, the understanding, the skills and the attitudes that are necessary not only for their self-fulfilment, but also for their development as responsible citizens. We seek to honour this entitlement through the education that we provide in our school.

2.2 The aim of this policy is therefore to help to ensure that we meet all the needs of those children who are learning English as an additional language. This is in line with the requirements of the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, The Equality Act 2010 and The Human Rights Act 2000.

3 Teaching and learning style

3.1 In our school teachers use various methods to help children who are learning English as an additional language:

3.1.1 developing their spoken and written English by:

- ensuring that vocabulary work covers the technical as well as the everyday meanings;
- covering not just key words, but also metaphors and idioms;
- explaining how spoken and written English have different usages for different purposes;
- providing them with a range of reading materials, to exemplify the different ways in which English is used;
- giving them appropriate opportunities for talking, and using talking to support writing;
- encouraging them to relate one language to another;

3.1.2 ensuring their access to the curriculum and to assessment by:

- using texts and materials that suit their ages and learning stages;
- providing support through ICT, video and audio materials, dictionaries and translators;
- using the home or first language where appropriate.

4 EAL and inclusion

4.1 In our school, we value each child as a unique individual. We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to inclusion. All children in our school follow the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales. Children with English as an additional language do not produce separate work. We provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of all pupils learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

4.2 We rarely withdraw children from lessons to receive one to one EAL support. The language support teacher from the Local Authority's Support Service (EMAS) works in partnership with class teachers within classrooms whenever possible. When children are newly arrived they may sometimes have small periods of time withdrawn from class to rehearse basic language that will be helpful for them as they are new to the school. These sessions may also involve pastoral support around transition and settling in.

Children are also supported in small groups, receiving specific additional language programmes.

4.3 At Tairgwaith Primary School we provide opportunities for children to develop their English, and we provide support to help them take part in activities.

4.4 We support children learning English as an additional language by:

- building on their experience of acquiring language at home and in the wider community, so that this experience supports their developing use of English;
- providing a range of opportunities for them to engage in English speaking and listening activities, with peers and with adults;
- providing bilingual support to extend vocabulary;
- providing opportunities for children to read their home languages, as well as English.

5 Assessment & Tracking

5.1 Our school uses the WAG Stages of Acquisition to measure the English language competence of EAL children when they are at an early stage of language acquisition. As soon as possible they are assessed against Curriculum for Wales and skills progression steps. We record their attainment and progress according to agreed school procedures.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.