

Peter 2: Verse 17-23.

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English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Author:

SENDCo

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March 2026

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Introduction

Our Academy vision is "Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope". We aspire to take dignified decisions and afford dignity to all members of our community, regardless of background or circumstance. Our position as a Voluntary Aided Church Academy means that the Christian faith has a central role in all of our actions and decisions. We strive for excellence in all that we do, enabling our student to transform their lives and to hope for happy and successful futures.

Our vision encompasses respect and care for other people at the Academy and in the wider community. We know that a feeling of belonging and community plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the Academy. It instils pride, supports positive behaviour and discipline and encourages identity with the Academy.

Statement of intent

The government definition of a bilingual learner is that it refers to 'all pupils who use or have access to more than one language at home or at school – it does not necessarily imply full fluency in both or all languages' (DfES 2003).

Diversity of EAL learners

In this policy, the term 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL) refers to students whose main language at home is a language other than English. Students with EAL will face various difficulties throughout their academic life. Students' aptitude for English will vary, but many will face barriers to learning, accessing the curriculum and reaching their full potential. Students with EAL must learn in and through another language.

In addition, they may come from different cultural backgrounds to their peers and face different expectations of language, education and learning.

Research suggests that those new to English will acquire conversational fluency within two years, but will need five years or longer to achieve competence in academic English. This policy has been established to ensure all students with EAL at the Academy are given the best chance possible to reach their full potential.

Aims

Whole School

- To welcome the cultural, linguistic and educational experiences students with EAL contribute to the school.
- To ensure strategies are in place to support students with EAL.
- To enable students with EAL to become confident, and to acquire the language skills needed to reach their full academic potential.

The individual

- To use English confidently and competently.
- To use English as a means of learning across the curriculum
- To ensure that EAL students are fully included into the life and work of All Saints Academy Dunstable.
- To ensure that students whose first language is not English reach their full potential

Objectives:

- Provide a welcoming atmosphere for newly arrived students with EAL.
- Assess the skills and needs of students with EAL as soon as possible.
- Gather accurate information regarding children's backgrounds, cultures and abilities.
- Equip all staff with the necessary skills, resources and knowledge to support students with EAL.
- Use all available resources to raise the attainment of students with EAL.
- Systematically monitor students' progress, and adapt policies and procedures accordingly.
- Ensure all children's languages, cultures and identities are represented in classrooms and throughout the Academy.

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- Maximise opportunities to model the fluent use of English.
- Ensure students with EAL are acknowledged for their skills in their own languages.
- Promote a whole school responsibility towards EAL students.
- Ensure that appropriate and realistic levels of attainment are decided upon within each curriculum area.
- Make appropriate use of external agencies

Teacher responsible for students with EAL

- The teacher responsible for students with EAL is Mrs Hoffman-Gibbs. Their responsibilities include:
 - Working with the QofE team to co-ordinate the efficient timetabling of students with EAL.
 - Overseeing the assessment and target setting of children with EAL.
 - Ensuring the procurement and appropriate use of resources to support students with EAL.
 - Aiding staff in effective communication with parents/carers and finding translators where appropriate.
 - Exploring various possibilities to ensure important information is shared with parents/carers.

EAL teaching support

The school employs the following staff who has experience of working with students with EAL and will help to provide support: Mrs. K. Fallon

The responsibilities of the EAL coordinator are:

- The induction of newly arrived students.
- Conducting initial assessments of students with EAL.
- Teaching small groups of students with EAL.
- Providing classroom support.
- Liaising with teaching staff.
- Advising on strategies to support and include students with EAL.
- Providing advice regarding inclusive curriculum materials.
- Advising on ways to differentiate work for students with EAL.
- Encouraging and supporting students to maintain and develop their first language.
- Facilitating students' use of first language national examinations.
- Developing relationships between the Academy and parents/carers of students with EAL.
- Securing and providing training to ensure staff development, including INSET courses.
- Acting as consultant to staff on language-related issues.
- Acting as consultant to staff on equal opportunity and race equality issues.

The role of school staff members

All staff members have a responsibility to ensure the development of students with EAL. They will meet this responsibility by:

- Ensuring all written work includes the technical requirements of language as well as the meaning.
- Providing a good model of spoken English.
- Where possible, using a variety of types of text to explore their subject and through the varied use of English.
- Ensuring the inclusion of students with EAL in their classrooms.
- Identifying students with EAL who are experiencing difficulties and ensuring intervening measures are taken to aid the student.

Support

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- Where a student with EAL is assessed as having little to no English, support will be provided in the form of induction classes. These classes focus on practical, everyday English. The induction period, typically lasts a half term but may vary depending on student's progress.
- In-class support and small group work is utilised as soon as the student can be successfully integrated into the classroom environment. The student will still spend time with their intervention teacher on a regular basis.

Inclusion

The school utilises a strategy of inclusion, and the positive and effective use of language. The strategy includes the following principles:

- There is an understanding throughout the Academy, for both staff and students, that a limited knowledge of English does not reflect a lack of ability or knowledge. Appreciating a student's ability to speak their own first language is essential for building their confidence and self-esteem.
- The language development of students is the responsibility of the entire school community.
- Mainstream and support departments will work together to ensure optimal outcomes are achieved.
- Diversity will be valued and classrooms will be socially inclusive.
- Teachers will be knowledgeable about students' abilities in English and use their knowledge to inform lesson planning.
- Schemes of work may be rewritten to accommodate low levels of English, whilst maintaining the subject content and level of challenge.
- Where large groups of students with EAL speak the same language, the school encourages wider integration to promote inclusion and to improve students' understanding of English.
- It is part of the school's accessibility plan to ensure main signage is printed in common languages other than English, and these should be installed by Summer term 2023.

Initial assessments

- The school will undertake a timely initial assessment to gauge students' English abilities in an informal manner that does not make the student feel isolated or inferior.
- The assessment will be carried out by a teacher with EAL experience using the British Picture Vocabulary Test
- Completed assessments are held on the student's profile and an initial report is written to demonstrate need.
- Teachers of the student will be allowed access to the assessment to inform their teaching and lesson planning.
- The student and the parents/carers of the student may view the assessment at any time.

Classroom practice

- Teachers have high expectations of all students, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social background or English ability.
- Classroom activities will be matched to students' needs and abilities.
- Teachers will consider common misconceptions and language barriers, such as reading '3 x 3', where 'x' is read as the letter and not a function, and clarify meanings accordingly.
- Where possible, the following practices will be utilised to improve students' literacy:
 - Utilisation of the student's first language expertise.
 - The provision of writing frames.
 - The use of props.
- Language skills will be developed through:
 - Collaborative activities involving spoken communication.
 - Feedback opportunities and conversations.

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- Good models provided by peers.
- Active participation will be encouraged by:
 - Grouping students in mixed ability groups to develop language skills.
 - 'Expert' readers and writers present in each group to provide assistance and model language.
- Classroom displays will reflect cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Assessment methods will allow students to show what they can do in all curriculum areas.
- Bilingual dictionaries are available to aid students with EAL.
- Dual language textbooks are available and used where possible.
- Visual supports are utilised where possible.
- Prior to any private tuition/one-to-one support, the student is informed of the purpose of the session and the objectives.

Access to the curriculum

The needs of students with EAL are considered by teachers when planning lessons. When planning lessons, teachers will ensure that:

- The language and learning demand of the curriculum are analysed and support is provided.
- Visual support is utilised to provide greater understanding of key concepts.
- There are opportunities for students to use their first language in the classroom.
- The support requirements of students with EAL are identified and the support is made available.
- Staff training will be delivered annually to support delivery of the curriculum to EAL students.

Working with parents and carers

Liaison with parents/carers is vital to the creation of a strong home/school partnership, which can ensure the development of students with EAL. To aid this partnership, the Academy will:

- Actively seek to put parents/carers at ease by providing a welcoming environment conducive to productive discussions.
- Provide interpreters for meetings when needed.
- Ensure the language used in letters to parents is clear and straightforward.
- Where appropriate, have teachers read through the letter with children before sending the letter home, to ensure the message is clear.
- Where necessary, ensure translations of school documents are carried out and provided to parents/carers of students with EAL.
- Encourage parents/carers to attend parents' evenings and participate in Academy functions.
- Invite parents/carers to school to help with class activities, such as cooking, reading and class outings, where appropriate.
- Encourage parents/carers to become involved with homework through shared reading schemes and language-based homework.
- Plan activities in a way that ensures they do not clash with religious/community commitments.

Special educational needs (SEND)

- A child is not regarded to have SEND solely because their home language is different from the language in which they are taught at school.
- A proportion of students with EAL may have one or more types of SEN and it is imperative that this is identified at an early stage.
- Assessments of SEND of students with EAL will involve EAL specialists along with SEND specialists.
- Where appropriate, the Academy will arrange an assessment in the child's first language.
- SEND support will be decided on an individual basis in the manner outlined within the Academy's SEND Policy.

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- The school will ensure that the parents/carers of a student with SEND are not prevented from presenting their views throughout the process and are clearly informed at every stage.

Monitoring progress

- The monitoring of students' progress is shared between all teachers, both mainstream and EAL support.
- Individual student profiles are updated following assessments and reviewed on a termly basis to identify and address problems.
- Students are also encouraged to set their own targets and objectives to bolster self-esteem and increase accountability.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body has delegated to the Executive Principal the responsibility for reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of this policy. This policy will be reviewed every three years and the Governing Body will approve all major changes to this policy. The policy will be promoted and published throughout the Academy.

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Appendix 1- First Language Assessment Form

Student's name:

Language:

Assessed by:

Date:

Answer the following questions in relation to age related expectations:	Y/N
Is the student's social/linguistic behaviour age-appropriate? Notes:	
Does the student understand a range of questions, instructions and a story, told in their first language? Notes:	
Is the student's speech clearly articulated? Notes:	
Is the student able to speak accurately at a social level? Notes:	
Is the student's vocabulary appropriate/sophisticated/limited? Notes:	

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<p>Does the student use correct grammatical structures? Notes:</p>	
<p>Can the student talk about the past, present and future using correct verbal forms? Notes:</p>	
<p>Do you have any concerns? Notes:</p>	
<p>Do you have any comments regarding the student's social interaction with you during the assessment? Notes:</p>	
<p>Can the student read and write in their first language? Notes:</p>	
<p>Can the student complete age-appropriate mathematics tasks with limited language context? Notes:</p>	