

# **EAL Policy (English as an Additional Language) 2025 – 2027**

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## Definitions

The government defines a bilingual learner as a pupil who:

*“Uses or has 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)*

At Woodlands School, we recognise and celebrate the diversity of our EAL learners and the richness they bring to our community.

## Our Ethos

At Woodlands School, our ethos – Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity, Excellence – underpins all that we do. These four pillars guide our commitment to ensuring that every EAL pupil:

- Aspires to achieve their full potential.
- Builds resilience when developing English language skills.
- Accesses opportunities to succeed academically and socially.
- Demonstrates excellence in their learning journey and wider contributions to our school community.

## Aims

Woodlands School aims to ensure that pupils with English as an additional language are able to:

- Use English confidently and competently.
- Use English as a tool for learning across the curriculum.
- Feel fully included in all aspects of school life.
- Achieve their highest potential, both academically and personally.

## Objectives

Our objectives for EAL provision are to:

- Identify and assess pupils’ individual needs as early as possible.
- Acknowledge and value pupils’ home languages, building on existing skills and knowledge.
- Encourage pupils to draw upon their knowledge of other languages.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils throughout their learning journey.
- Promote whole-school responsibility for meeting the needs of EAL pupils.
- Ensure appropriate and realistic expectations for attainment across curriculum areas.
- Engage external agencies where appropriate.

## Overview of EAL Provision

English as an Additional Language (EAL) is addressed across all faculties by subject teachers.

- Pupils with limited English proficiency will receive language tuition before joining the mainstream curriculum.
- All pupils with EAL are integrated into mainstream classes as soon as possible, with in-class support provided where finances allow.

- Pupils are encouraged to take external examinations in their first language to build confidence and recognise achievement.

## **Documentation and Records**

All EAL-related documentation and records are maintained by the SEND Lead – EAL and overseen by SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator). These records are confidential and shared only with the pupil's parents/carers and relevant staff members.

## **Information Gathering**

Information will be collected about:

- The pupil's linguistic background and competence in other languages.
- The pupil's previous education and, where appropriate, the family's biographical background.
- The pupil's level of English, assessed using EAL scales.

## **Strategies to Ensure Access to the Curriculum**

To support access to learning, the following strategies are employed:

- Initial direct teaching to support English acquisition.
- Use of bilingual resources (e.g. dictionaries, online tools, key word lists).
- Collaborative group work and peer support.
- Enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening.
- Additional visual aids (e.g. posters, diagrams, non-verbal cues).
- Use of writing frames and other scaffolding tools.
- Regular feedback from staff.
- Access to ICT-based learning materials and resources.
- Referral to external agencies when necessary.

## **Monitoring Progress**

Pupils' progress is monitored through:

- Tracking English language acquisition using EAL scales.
- Monitoring academic attainment and engagement through:
  - Attendance figures
  - Behaviour data
  - Discussions with subject staff
  - Annual school reports

## **Resources**

A variety of resources is used to support pupils' linguistic development, including:

- Language games
- Differentiated worksheets
- Visual materials
- ICT-based language learning tools

- Peer and group learning activities
- Keyword lists, bilingual dictionaries and computer software



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Head Teacher

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chair of Governors

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
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