

THE BENALMÁDENA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



EAL Policy

Name of Policy:	EAL
Applicable to:	Whole school
Approved	Mark Halliwell 28/8/24
Effective date:	September, 2024
Date of next review:	June 2025

Purpose and Scope of Policy

This policy outlines our school's practice and procedures relating to the support offered to EAL students who find it difficult to access the school curriculum. This policy has also been written to support our teaching and learning team at BIC.

Rationale

As a small school with many international students we always endeavour to support our students as best as we can. Our approach to EAL students is no different. Immersion within our small and supportive groups is a key facet of our policy, alongside tailored support for students that experience difficulties accessing the curriculum.

Aims

- **To promote equality of opportunity for all learners for whom English is an additional language.**
- **To deliver a broad, balanced curriculum which reflects the needs of children for whom English is an additional language.**
- **To ensure EAL pupils reach their full potential.**

Guidelines

1. **To promote academic achievement by grouping EAL pupils according to cognitive level rather than English language level – As a school we are currently evaluating how we can do this most effectively and it will form a key part of our development plan.**
2. **To promote and encourage the development of Spanish as a first language for many of our learners in order to facilitate concept development in tandem with their acquisition of English. This is largely conducted via 5 lessons per week of Lengua and Ciencias Sociales classes.**
3. **To provide pupils with access to resources which are age appropriate, at an appropriate language level, and are linguistically and culturally appropriate.**
4. **To use key visuals and other strategies to support children's access to the curriculum.**
5. **To ensure that language and literacy are taught within the context of all subjects.**
6. **To ensure that learners not yet fluent in spoken English or the language of the curriculum are entitled to receive planned support for their oracy and literacy skills.**
7. **To actively liaise with parents to help them to support their children's learning.**
8. **To facilitate parents' access to school life by providing dual language information and bilingual support especially for parents' evenings, school events and workshops, and to monitor parental involvement.**
9. **To provide all staff with quality professional development to develop their knowledge of EAL pedagogy and their skills for teaching EAL learners.**
10. **To celebrate multilingual skills and promote linguistic diversity with all pupils.**

Whole school language development

All teachers will need to consider the language demands as well as the content of the curriculum and plan how they can support pupils to develop oracy and literacy across the curriculum.

In writing schemes of work and medium term plans, teachers should consider the following questions:

1. What opportunities are there to explore ideas orally and collaboratively?
2. How can teachers (or additional adults or other children) model the key subject language needed?
3. What specialist vocabulary do pupils need in order to understand new concepts and how can this be presented to them in an accessible way?
4. What range of texts do pupils need to read and how can their reading be scaffolded to support learners with diverse needs?
5. What types of written tasks do pupils need to carry out and how can these be framed to support pupils at different levels?
6. Are lessons planned to ensure that any additional adult has a clear role in developing literacy?

As part of our curriculum review 2024-25 the provision for EAL students, using the criteria above will be evaluated

The role of class teachers is to:

- develop consistent approaches to teaching and learning in literacy and to build increased awareness of the existing language knowledge and understanding that pupils bring to lessons
- use speaking and listening strategies to develop subject learning
- plan for teaching and learning of subject-specific vocabulary
- develop active reading strategies to increase pupils' ability to read for a purpose and engage with a variety of texts.
- model writing for key text types within their subject.

Language and literacy experiences of EAL learners

- Some pupils already have good language and literacy skills in two or more languages
- Some pupils are beginner EAL learners have never learnt to read or write in any language.
- Some pupils have missed some or all of their education and have not fully developed the language and literacy skills needed for primary school
- Some pupils have SEN with language or literacy needs

All these diverse groups benefit from teaching that develops their language and literacy so they become fluent in the academic language of the primary curriculum which is the key to academic success.

As pupils progress through school, the language and literacy demands of the curriculum increase and pupils need to develop a wider range of language skills, in particular making the transition from spoken to written forms. They also need to be able to adopt different styles (genres) to meet different purposes and audiences which need to be explicitly taught.

Beginner EAL learners

It takes 1-2 years to become fluent in everyday spoken English, but 5-7 years to develop proficiency in formal, written English. Pupils who are new to English will benefit from being integrated into mainstream teaching and learning experiences most of the time. This is one of our key strategies and has always worked extremely well.

This enables them to;

- develop oral fluency quickly
- immediately feel part of the school
- develop language in context
- experience their full curriculum entitlement

Teaching strategies to support EAL beginners

- Provide a classroom rich in oral experiences
- Enable pupils to draw on their existing knowledge of other language/s
- Encourage and use bilingual support from other students and staff
- Use translated materials and bilingual dictionaries
- Allow students time to practice new language
- Use visual support of all kinds (diagrams, maps, charts, pictures, realia)
- Develop card sorting, sequencing and matching activities
- In some cases students complete additional English work on the Primary site at BIC. Temporary withdrawal from MFL lessons is used, in order to do this.
- At KS4, second language learners complete the full English course as on balance EAL students generally perform better than on the second language exam.

Developing language and literacy skills

In order to be fully literate, pupils need to be able to understand how we adapt our every day speech into formal, written texts.

Learning through talk

1. Using speaking to clarify and present ideas
2. Using active listening to understand a topic
3. Hypothesising, evaluating and problem solving through discussion

Teaching strategies

- Provide pre and post listening activities such as listening frames
- Use information gap and other collaborative activities
- Allow students to do some assessment orally
- Ask students to rehearse answer with partner before answering
- Use additional adults to support discussion groups

Learning from text

1. Reading for meaning – inference and deduction
2. Understanding how subject specific texts are organised
3. Developing research and study skills

Teaching strategies

- Make the purpose of reading explicit
- Read aloud to pupils
- Teach pupils how to find their way around text books and use index, contents, etc.
- Show pupils how to write questions before starting research
- Help pupils decide whether to scan or skim read or close read
- Ask pupils to transfer information from text to diagrams
- Encourage and show pupils how to use the library for research and pleasure. This can be done during form time and during DEAR sessions in English.

Learning through writing

1. Using writing to think, explore and develop ideas
2. Structuring and organising writing to link ideas into paragraphs
3. Developing clear and appropriate expression at sentence level

Teaching strategies

- Make sure pupils are clear about the purpose and audience for their writing
- Point out the differences between speech and writing
- Help pupils use appropriate level of formality
- Give pupils model texts before asking them to write
- Show pupils how to organise writing using planning frameworks, graphic organisers,
- Support extended writing with frames and key connectives to link ideas.
- Ask pupils to evaluate, correct and redraft their writing