



English as an Additional Language Policy

Updated September 2024

This policy outlines the nursery's approach to supporting children who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL). It aims to ensure that all children, regardless of their first language, have equal access to the curriculum, feel valued, and are given the appropriate support to develop their English language skills.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Support the inclusion of children who speak English as an additional language.
- Provide a structured approach to helping children develop their English language skills in a nurturing environment.
- Promote cultural diversity and respect for all languages spoken by children in our care.
- Ensure all staff are trained to support the language development of EAL children.

Key Principles The following principles guide our approach to supporting children with EAL:

- **Inclusion:** Every child, regardless of their home language, is entitled to participate fully in the nursery's activities and curriculum.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** The nursery will celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, creating an environment where all languages are respected and valued.
- **Language Development:** We recognise the importance of supporting children in acquiring English while also valuing their home language. We encourage the development of both, as this supports cognitive and social development.
- **Individualised Support:** Each child's language development is unique, and support will be tailored to their specific needs.

Identification and Assessment

- Children's language needs will be identified during the admissions process or soon after entry into the nursery.
- Initial assessments will be conducted to determine the child's level of English proficiency, considering both receptive and expressive language skills.
- Regular observations will monitor the child's progress in developing English, alongside a focus on their social and emotional well-being.

Strategies for Supporting EAL Children

Briardene Nursery School, 2 Fulwood Ave, Tarleton, Preston, PR4 6RP

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- **Visual Supports:** We will use visual aids, such as pictures, symbols, and gesture, to support understanding.
- **Bilingual Resources:** Where possible, bilingual staff or translators will assist in communication. The nursery will also provide books, labels, and displays in multiple languages to encourage the use of the child's home language.
- **Peer Support:** Pairing EAL children with peers who are confident English speakers can support language development through social interaction and shared activities.
- **Scaffolded Learning:** Teachers will use techniques like simplified language, repetition, and scaffolding to support children in understanding and using English.
- **Parental Involvement:** We will engage with parents and families, encouraging them to support their child's language development at home. This includes offering guidance on supporting language learning and inviting them to share aspects of their language and culture in the nursery.

Role of Staff

- **Training:** All staff will receive regular training to improve their understanding of EAL and effective teaching strategies.
- **Encouragement:** Staff will encourage children to use their home language as well as English, fostering a positive environment for bilingualism.
- **Language Modelling:** Staff will act as language models, speaking clearly, slowly, and using simple sentences, and will encourage children to speak and express themselves in English.
- **Assessment and Progress:** Staff will regularly assess children's progress and adjust support strategies as needed to ensure continuous language development.

Resources The nursery will ensure that:

- Books and materials in different languages are available.
- The environment is rich in language, with labels, signs, and posters in English and, where possible, other languages spoken by the children.
- Technology and apps that support language learning may be incorporated into the curriculum when appropriate.

Communication with Parents

- We will provide written information about the nursery's EAL policy in a range of languages, where feasible.
- Parents will be encouraged to share any concerns regarding their child's language development and to share cultural and linguistic information that will help staff provide better support.
- Regular communication will be maintained between staff and parents, ensuring that both parties are aware of the child's progress and any areas where additional support may be needed.

Evaluation and Review

- The effectiveness of the policy will be regularly reviewed, considering feedback from staff, parents, and children.
- The nursery will evaluate the language development progress of EAL children and adjust practices accordingly to ensure that every child receives the necessary support to thrive.

This policy ensures that children who speak English as an additional language are supported in a way that enhances their language development, respects their cultural background, and fosters their sense of belonging within the nursery community. All staff are committed to delivering high-quality care and education to EAL children, helping them to achieve their full potential in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

Name:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
David Birkbeck	Owner		
Kayleigh Tydd	Director		
Greg Bamber	Nominated Individual		
Zoe Tydd	Manager & DSL		
Abbie Lloyd	Deputy Manager		
Jade Radcliffe	Second Deputy Manager		
Pamela Lear	Practitioner		
Diane Jones	Practitioner		
Emily Gautrey	Practitioner		

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