

# EAL POLICY



## St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

**Approved By:** Local Governing Body

**Date:** January 2026

**Next Review Date:** January 2029



# ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

All our policies are written with the objective of continuously improving our school in our aim of realising St. James' vision, which is to create a community that reaches their full potential:

*"He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."*

*Matthew 13: 31-32*

We believe a small act of kindness and an act of faith can have a huge impact on another's life.

Our Governors, leaders and staff uphold the vision of

***'We grow together, through God we are Giving, Loving and are Honest'***

We celebrate that we are a diverse school and recognise and welcome children coming from different life experiences.

## **Rationale**

We understand that some of our children speak more than one language and acknowledge their ability to use a variety of community languages. In our school the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all children are important. We encourage all children to achieve the highest possible standards. We do this through taking account of each child's life experiences and needs. We recognise the importance of the mother-tongue language being used at home with children. This is because research shows us that this provides the children with good language acquisition which, in turn, develops their all-round literacy skills.

EAL children may have particular learning and assessment requirements, which are linked to their progress in learning English as an additional language.

Children who are learning English as an additional language have skills and knowledge about language similar to English-speaking children. Their ability to participate in the full curriculum may be in advance of their communicative skills in English.

## **Aims**

The National Curriculum secures entitlement for all children to a number of areas of learning and gives them the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that are necessary for their self-fulfilment and development as responsible citizens. We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the diverse education that we provide in our school.

The aim of this policy is to help ensure that we meet the full range of needs of those children who are learning English as an additional language. This is in line with the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Amendment Act 2000. It also takes into account the Equality Act 2010.

At St James' Church of England Primary Academy, teachers take action to help children who are learning English as an additional language by various means.

Developing their spoken and written English by:

- ensuring that vocabulary work covers the technical as well as the everyday meaning of key words, metaphors and idioms;
- displaying key vocabulary;
- explaining how speaking and writing in English are structured for different purposes across a range of subjects;
- providing a range of reading materials that highlight the different ways in which English is used;
- ensuring that there are many effective opportunities for oracy and that oracy is used to support writing;

- encouraging children to transfer their knowledge, skills and understanding of one language to another; and
- building on children's experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and other languages support one another.

Ensuring access to the curriculum and to assessment by:

- using accessible texts and materials that suit children's ages and levels of learning;
- providing support through ICT, video or audio materials, dictionaries and translators, readers and scribes;
- using the home or first language where appropriate and available; and
- setting targets in writing.

### **Curriculum Access**

All children at St. James' Church of England Primary Academy follow the curricular requirements of the Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum. Children with English as an additional language do not produce separate work, unless within a focused target intervention group.

Where necessary, we do withdraw children from lessons to receive EAL support in order to support those children who are targeted and in need of additional small group work, in addition to those children who are new to English. They will mainly work in partnership with class teachers within classrooms. This involves supporting individual children or small groups of children. We plan opportunities for children to develop their English, and we provide support to help them take part in activities, by:

- building on children's experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and of other languages support one another;
- providing a range of opportunities for children to engage in speaking and listening activities in English with peers and adults;
- providing bilingual support to extend vocabulary; and
- providing opportunities for children to hear their home languages as well as English.

### **Assessment**

Assessment will be used to provide effective and personalised teaching and learning through early identification of the children's needs. These children are targeted on a termly basis, however, if they are successful the target may change during the term.

We carry out ongoing recording of attainment and progress in line with agreed school procedures, monitoring the progress made at least termly, then highlighting children in need of targeting for focus support. If regular assessment highlights progress concerns then these should be shared with the SENDCo.

The statutory assessment arrangements of the National Curriculum allow us to make special arrangements for children who are learning English as an additional language.

For the Science and written Mathematics test at Key Stage 2, we can provide verbal translations of words or phrases in the test papers, which we think, are likely to prove difficult for children in their first year in the English school system. During Science and Maths we can provide readers and scribes to support pupils with EAL.