

English as an Additional Language Policy

Aims

Nant-y-Cwm Steiner School aims for all pupils to be able to access the curriculum as soon and as effectively as possible, in parallel with gaining language skills useful in both social and academic life.

It is important to make a clear distinction between English as an additional language (EAL) pupils and those with additional learning needs (ALN). If a pupil is learning English as an additional language is discovered to have ALN, teachers and specialist staff should work closely with the SENCO and class teacher to enable the pupil to reach their full language potential. On the other hand, EAL needs should not prevent gifted and talented pupils from being recognised as such.

Planning for supporting EAL pupils

The planning involved in bringing pupils up to speed with the curriculum take into account factors such as:

- Age
- Previous experience of school and curriculum content
- Knowledge of other languages
- Levels of literacy in their first or other languages

It is important for all teachers to consider the following factors:

- Recognising the child's mother tongue and making it clear that speaking in their home language is a positive part of the learning process.
- Giving newly arrived children time to absorb English by allowing them a 'silent period' which will usually pass once their self-confidence increases.
- Boosting the child's self-esteem
- Viewing the cultural differences brought by the pupil to the class as a bonus and using this in the teaching process.
- Having high expectations in expecting pupils to contribute with more than one-word answers.
- Using teaching strategies that do not allow any racist comments or jokes.
- Allowing support from bilingual parents, volunteers or other professionals to develop children's understanding and vocabulary.

Strategies to bring out pupils' language potential can include:

- Using culturally relevant resources and learning materials
- Promoting thinking and taking in first languages to support understanding
- Grouping EAL learners who share the same home language