

Our mission statement for EAL at Weoley Castle Nursery School

Context

Here at Weoley Castle Nursery School we have a wide and varied range of languages additional to English each year. This year we have 16 different languages spoken by our students. We believe at Weoley Castle Nursery School, that each individual child brings with them a uniqueness that should be encouraged and enjoyed. We like to encourage use of students own language and we often invite parents and family members in to share their cultural celebrations with us so that we can broaden our knowledge. We use a language programme to help children with English as an additional language, Wellcomm. It shows us where the gaps are in a student's language acquisition and we are able to provide lots of opportunities through play to develop these areas.

Our inclusive provision identifies the demographics of our area and encourages a multi-cultural approach to Early Years learning. We like to mix our children into varied groups so that they can learn from their peers and feel part of the inclusive community we are trying to create at our school.

We use the Wellcomm Programme and assessments to maintain a close eye on our EAL students. Throughout the year we assess and revise targets for each individual student. This helps us to maintain a good grasp of what our students need in terms of language. We use this alongside our schedule of growth assessments to detail exactly where the students need the guidance and support.

Each year we monitor the impact our EAL approach has had on our cohort and adapt it as needed to meet the needs of each new cohort of students.

At Weoley Castle Nursery School we know that EAL and SEND are not the same. In fact we believe that EAL is a gift and it forms part of our gifted and talented group. Students who attend our school with English as an additional language go on to become bi-lingual adults. This is a skill we should be encouraging and welcoming in every school.

Intent

Our main aim is to settle the children as quickly as possible, into school life; to encourage them to take part in the daily routines and structures, which will help them to develop, not only an understanding of the academic aspects of English, but the use of our language as a social interaction.

Our priority is to ensure that all pupils are enabled to have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. English is best learnt through the curriculum and EAL pupils should be encouraged to play a full part in all learning opportunities.

EAL learners make the best progress within a whole school context, where pupils are educated with their peers. Our school environment promotes language development through the rich use of language. The school structure and overall ethos help EAL pupils integrate into the school whilst valuing diversity.

Implementation

At Weoley Castle Nursery School the EAL teaching focuses on individual pupil's needs and abilities. Each child has their Language skills assessed and then we use the Wellcomm Programme to underpin the areas of focus for each individual. We do this through;

- Collaborative group work, Visual timetables and the use of physical items to convey meaning
- Enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening
- Effective role models of speaking, reading and writing
- Additional verbal support-repetition, alternative phrasing, peer support
- Additional visual support, e.g. posters, objects, non-verbal clues, pictures, demonstration, use of gesture, etc.
- Bilingual resources, e.g. dictionaries, on-line support, bilingual staff/pupils, texts, key word lists
- Opportunities for role play
- Regular feedback from staff
- Opportunities to focus on the cultural knowledge
- Discussion provided before and during tasks

Intended Impact

Because of our early, and ongoing intervention, children are supported in their learning, at appropriate levels. EAL pupils will be provided with opportunities to make progress at every opportunity. We like to make use of staff resources to create smaller groups to allow for more speaking and listening. We intend for all EAL students to leave us with a good grasp of English to make their second stage of education smooth.

