

Educational and Welfare Provision for pupils for whom English is an Additional Language

Introduction:

The Woodlands Schools recognise the rich contribution made to its community by those pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL), and who may have significant life experience of other cultures. Studying in an additional language can present considerable challenges and our schools seek to support pupils with EAL in a number of ways: through academic provision, communication with pupils and parents and support with cultural and social development. We pursue equal opportunities for all members of our community and value diversity.

Academic Provision:

- Pupils for whom English is not the primary language will be screened on admission and will have appropriate access to EAL lessons where this is deemed appropriate by the SENCo, either from arrival or at any later stage in their schooling should the need arise.
- Small class sizes mean that pupils will receive considerable attention in the classroom. Where appropriate, a Teaching Assistant can be assigned to support EAL pupils in specific areas of challenge, with a view to working towards linguistic independence.
- Staff are expected to keep in mind the needs of pupils with EAL in planning and delivering lessons. For instance, all teachers will be expected to be sensitive to EAL pupils' need to have contextual support in order to access all areas of the curriculum.

Communication with Pupils and Parents:

- Particular care is taken with the provision of information for EAL pupils and their families. Materials must be clear and should be checked for potentially confusing idiom and cultural assumptions.
- As much as practically possible, reports and letters are given directly to the parents so that the content may be discussed with them.

Cultural and Social Perspectives:

- Pupils with EAL play a full part in the life of the school and are encouraged to give presentations in their class about important aspects of their lives, including cultural

heritage and traditions. Sharing and discussing our respective values is actively encouraged.

- Both national events such as World Book day and school events such as International Week present opportunities for the whole school, including pupils with EAL, to explore a rich variety of other languages and cultures, enhancing the global perspective of the school community and stressing to peers the skills developed by pupils with EAL.
- Teachers pay particular attention to the social development of pupils with EAL, supporting the development of friendships where necessary.