

English as an Additional Language

At MCPA, we value the languages and experiences that all our children bring from many different parts of the world. The ability to speak languages other than English is a great advantage and something we seek to celebrate and use.

Supporting EAL is an Academy specialism; we provide well matched extra support for students with additional language needs. Our emphasis on language acquisition, via a combination of induction sessions and intensive EAL one-to-one/ small group teaching, ensure that children receive extra support until they reach the expected levels in English.

We celebrate diversity, encourage first language development and enable children to gain qualifications in their first language.

We support parents by producing communication in a simple format, emphasizing key information and providing translation, wherever possible. Parents are also invited to family and adult ESL sessions as part of MCA'S community offer.

English as an Additional Language - Policy 2020

The philosophy at the heart of Manchester Communication Primary Academy's approach to supporting learners with English as an additional language is that children have a fantastic skill in being able to speak another language. We also pride ourselves on our inclusive and welcoming environment where our children and their families are given extensive academic and pastoral support. We believe in order for children to learn they must first feel safe and happy. We also offer our EAL parents the opportunity to attend our adult English classes, we give support and advice about finding work/ college places and encourage them to become involved in our community events.

Aims

Our primary aim is to remove any barriers to learning, relating to a child's English levels as quickly as possible, in order to facilitate progress in all lessons and socially. We have a team of teaching assistants, along with a specialist EAL Teaching Assistant, who work with our children in various languages. Alongside the secondary academy, we are able to access specialists in various languages, such as; Italian, German, Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic. Staff across both the primary and secondary academies speak many languages and, where necessary, everyone works together in parent meetings, phone calls, keyword translation and documents.

Assessment

Children are assessed on admission in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing in English depending on their age. The results of this assessment gives children an EAL stage 0-5. We then use this stage to decide what support we need to put in place for each individual child. This includes working with other teams/agencies such as the SEND support team when other learning needs are identified. Every individual learner is catered for and, where necessary, bespoke resources and extra support is provided.

Support

Before admission, pupils are invited to come for testing for EAL and attainment so that class teachers will be able to have a more informed idea of the new pupil and how better to plan for them on their arrival in class. New starters to the Primary Academy are invited to a 'Buddy Breakfast' on their first day where they will be paired with a fellow student who may be able to speak the new pupil's home language or, at least, be able to 'look out' for that pupil until they settle into school life. Pupils with a low level of English language are overseen by our specialist EAL teaching assistant who works with the class teacher to establish the best levels of provision for the child and any arrangements which need to be made for them to access classroom activities. This could include in-class support, language learning packs for the pupil to work on independently, personalized resources for use in class and targeted small group interventions. For some learners, there is also the opportunity to continue learning their home language whilst attending MCPA; for example, Portuguese speakers receive Portuguese language input from a native speaking teacher once a week.

Community

We feel it is important to support our children with the development of their own community language. Children can access tutoring in their own language in order to ensure that their level of literacy is developed in addition to their oral/aural skills in their own language. Children who have been at MCPA for 2 years or more will be fluent in English before they reach high school where they will be entered into a community languages accreditation scheme and will receive a recognised qualification in their community language such as GCSE and A-Level.