SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH EAL

A quick guide for parents and carers

English as an Additional Language

WE VALUE EVERY LANGUAGE

Our multilingual community enriches St Nicholas. EAL is not a special educational need; every child's language journey is different.

HOW WE BUILD LANGUAGE

Language development is a whole-school priority. Children hear, practise and apply new language throughout the day.

- Explicit core vocabulary across every subject
- Visuals, dual coding and clear modelling
- Purposeful talk and opportunities to rehearse language
- Repetition, revisiting and meaningful experiences
- Pre-teaching and overlearning where needed

READING BUILDS LANGUAGE

Reading is central to our universal offer and gives children daily access to vocabulary, stories and increasingly complex language.

- Read Write Inc. phonics
- Explicitly taught reading sessions
- Talk Through Stories
- Fluency teaching and practice
- Daily reading and extra practice where needed
- Explicit spelling and vocabulary teaching

Should I keep speaking in my home language?

Yes - absolutely! Talk, read, sing and share stories in the language that comes most naturally to your family. A strong home language supports communication, relationships, identity and wider language development. Exposure to this along side alongside English language is very beneficial.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Talk together every day
- Read and share stories in any language
- Discuss pictures, characters and new words
- Ask your child about their learning
- Explain ideas in your home language when helpful
- Use FlashAcademy at home if school provides access

HOW WE KNOW WHAT SUPPORT IS NEEDED

We build a picture of each child's language through observation, assessment and everyday learning.

- Reception speech and language screening
- Whole-class NELI and targeted NELI where needed
- English proficiency assessment as pupils progress
- Reassessment for pupils at earlier proficiency levels
- Targeted vocabulary, language or literacy support according to the barrier identified

EAL ≠ SEND Learning English as an additional language is not SEND. A child can have both EAL and SEND, so we carefully consider whether a barrier relates to language acquisition, an additional need, or both.

Working together

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about their language development, learning or progress.

"Love one another, as I have loved you."

Our approach is informed by evidence and guidance from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and The Bell Foundation.