



Headteacher: Helen Elphick B.A., M.A.

3rd October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Funding - £580 per pupil

If your child is registered as having English as an additional language (EAL), the school receives extra funding to improve its educational provision and resources.

We believe some of our pupils may be entitled to this funding but are not yet registered.

How do we know if a child is EAL?

Below are official definitions of EAL from the Department for Education and Ofsted, along with guidance to support interpretation of these.

Department for Education:

‘A pupil’s first language is defined as any language other than English that a child was exposed to during early development and continues to be exposed to in the home or community. If a child was exposed to more than one language (which may include English) during early development, a language other than English should be recorded, irrespective of the child’s proficiency in English.’

Ofsted:

‘English as an additional language (EAL) refers to learners whose first language is not English.’

These definitions therefore cover the following:

- Pupils arriving from other countries and whose first language is not English.
- Pupils who have lived in the UK for a long time may appear to be fluent, but who also speak another language at home. These pupils are often not entirely fluent in terms of their literacy levels.
- Pupils who have been born in the UK, but for whom the home language is not English (e.g., Bengali children who are born in the UK, but arrive at school with little English due to having spoken only Bengali at home and within the community)
- Pupils who have a parent who speaks a language other than English and with whom the child communicates in that language (i.e., bilingual children)

It is important therefore to recognise that:

- Children who have British citizenship can still be classed as EAL.
- If parents write on their child's admission form that the child speaks English as a first language, when one or both parents is a speaker of another language, the child is likely to be eligible for EAL funding, but this will not be received in school.

If you believe that your child may be registered as EAL, please contact the school office who will be able to do this for you. There is no form to fill in, just a code assigned on our system that will notify West Sussex County Council of our funding need as part of the October census. If you are unsure if you have already registered, please contact the school office who will be happy to confirm this.

How is the funding allocated?

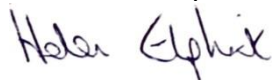
Funding is triggered when a child is registered as EAL in the October census. This happens when their language code is given as a language other than English. For the first three years after an EAL child is allocated with their Unique Pupil Number (UPN), this child is eligible for funding. The funding follows the child.

What information is used to establish that a pupil is EAL?

A First Language code is used for this. Many bilingual pupils therefore miss out on funding because schools give English as their first language instead of the language used at home or with a parent/parents or family.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact me via the school office so I can offer further help and advice.

Yours sincerely



Helen Elphick
Headteacher