

From mountain to sea

English as an Additional Language

Guidelines: seeking support from EAL

December 2017



Bilingual Learners who may require support from the EAL Service:

- Total beginners in English
- Bilingual learners who have been born in the UK or who have moved from another country
- One or more other languages are spoken in the home
- Bilingual learners whose mother-tongue is English and have been educated in another language
- Bilingual learners who function well in their mother-tongue but whose English language skills are at an earlier stage of development
- Bilingual learners in secondary school who cannot access English subject and require to be taught English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Bilingual learners who show evidence of the following:

In English language development

- the silent period (“some learners spend a long time absorbing the new language before they actually use it in speech or writing”). This is a normal part of the language acquisition process.
- English oral skills hindered only by difficulties of pronunciation
- English adequate for most school situations but they display gaps in subject specific vocabulary and phrases
- [non-native errors](#) that can be recognised as a normal part of the developmental process of acquiring a second language e.g. omitting a/an/the, word order, verb tense, plurals and prepositions.

In curriculum areas

- good cognitive/conceptual ability in tasks not dependent upon English language ability
- attainment lower than expectations

Socially/behaviourally

- Initial difficulties such as problems settling in socially and an initial lack of progress which may arise from:
 - no previous schooling
 - no experience of the Scottish education system
 - difficulties in transition from one culture to another
 - traumatic experiences

Before seeking support from the EAL Service, schools should ensure a [Referral](#) form has been completed and sent to: eal.service@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Please refer to “**Enrolling a Bilingual Learner**” for further information.

Date	Version	Status	Reason
2010	1.0	Guidelines	New draft
December 2017	2.0	Guidelines	Refresh

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