> ***Please note:*** This policy was developed by our school in response to a need to prioritise enrolment for pupils from Ukraine in April 2022.
> Mixed Co-educate school
> Senior primary school
> Inclusive school embracing diversity
> Classes 3rd – 6th & 2 special classes

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh acknowledges the right of children to communicate and socialise in the language of their home. The variety and diversity of the languages that the children bring to the classroom and to the school yard is respected.

The language of the Revised Curriculum is English (and Irish, both in the individual subject and informally throughout the school). This school deems that a standard of English language competency, comparable to that of a child for whom English is spoken in their own home, is desirable for the effective teaching of this curriculum. To this end, the aim of our EAL provision will be to successfully bridge any gap in fluency of English between children for whom English is the language of communication in all spheres of their life and those children for whom English is simply one of the languages of communication in their lives.

For the school year 2022/2023 there are four streams at each year level 3rd to 5th & 5 classes at 6th year level along with two special classes.
 As of May 2022 an allocation of hours was allocated to support the pupils sanctioned in the school by the DES specifically for the purposes of supporting children for whom English is an additional language.
 The number of pupils who meet the criteria for EAL is 13.
The school has been allocated 15 hours weekly.
The school has employed a substitute for the interim period until a temporary teacher becomes available to fulfil the role and duties of the EAL post.

This policy outlines the school's practice in providing this support on a planned and strategic basis. It covers:

- Recruitment of suitable teachers
- Assessment of pupil needs
- Aims of programme and
- Details of programme
- Teaching a class of EAL pupils as a whole class
- Working with small groups

1. Recruitment of Suitable Teachers:

It is school policy to recruit teachers for the position of EAL that have specific expertise and experiences in teaching English as an additional language to children of this age range. If the school is unable to recruit such personnel, then an existing staff member may take on the duties and a suitable mainstream class teacher will be recruited in his/her place. The teacher must display a genuine commitment to the inclusive and intercultural aspects of the mission statement and ethos of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh.

2. Assessment of Pupil's Needs:

Two methodologies will be used with regard to the identification of children with EAL needs.

1. The parents will be interviewed with regard to the languages of communication used in their family and community. An identification of the dominant or frequent use of another language other than English means that this child will be identified as having EAL needs.

2. The class teacher in consultation with the EAL teacher will, over the first month of school term (September 2022) make observations to ascertain the level of proficiency in the English language or not at all - to make a formal and informal assessment of the child's English language capabilities and competencies.

On the basis of this, an application will be made to the DES for suitable human and financial resources. In accordance with the circular, the school may request additional resources with an increased number in EAL enrolments. Records will be kept of the DES approved candidates and durations for support as identified by them. *(Ukrainian pupils)*

3. Aims of Programme:

The aim of the school's EAL programme is the development of oral, reading and writing English language competency for identified children, to a standard that is comparable to that of children for whom English is their sole language of communication and in keeping with the capability of the child.

In addition to this primary aim, the school also aims to facilitate the child in English language competence to assist in his/her integration into the life of the school and the English language community of his/her locality.

It is also expected to develop the child's sense of self-esteem and to encourage creativity in the child. It is also aimed to use the programme as an effective means of home-school liaison. Finally**, it is also aimed at professionally developing the whole school staff in competence as EAL teachers. *(CPD in Education centres & online modules in EAL)***

Up & Away program, Primary Language Assessment Toolkit,

4. Details of Programme:

The EAL Teacher will be timetabled to work with the pupils following dialogue with the class teachers and in consultation with the SET Team also.
Work completed with each child shall be individually recorded according to the EAL Pupil Progress Record.

The EAL teacher and Staff will attend all EAL in-service training opportunities offered by the DES to include webinars in the education centres. In addition, all EAL resources required will be purchased as a matter of priority.

The EAL teacher will meet and review the progress of each individual child regularly. This mode of provision for EAL needs will be reviewed annually and revised according to future needs and DES provision.

5. Digital tools for use in the Classroom:

Make your school website accessible to all.
See how schools can make their website accessible to all using:
Google Translate
Chrome Extension.
Making the most of Google or Microsoft in school:
Use Google and Microsoft forms to create digital copies of school enrolment forms.
Google and Microsoft Translation tools can translate welcome letters, home school communication and other administrative processes.
Enhancing accessibility with video and audio tools in school
Make use of close captioning within YouTube to make school open night /promo videos accessible to all, demo here.
Invite students from the school community to narrate the school booklet in their home language and add it as an audio file to the welcome booklet.
Going further the classroom environment can be made accessible for all through use of the following digital tools:
Use Microsoft Translator to allow students communicate in real time through multiple languages.
Create Multilingual Keywords Sheets using Google sheets.
Use Google Chrome translation extension, make your subject specific websites accessible in any language.

6. Review details:

[Policy review September 2023) or if exceptional circumstances deem it necessary.