

English as an Additional Language Policy

Purpose:

Students learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) are a significant group of students in Victorian government schools, making up around 15% of all students in metropolitan schools. This proportion is even higher at Preston North East Primary School. This policy aims to provide staff with guidelines to implement a highly effective EAL program.

Definitions:

Students are defined as being EAL students if they come from a language background other than English, and require additional support in learning English as an additional language.

Funding is allocated to schools to provide English support programs for students based on the number of EAL students.

Guidelines for Implementation:

New Arrivals Program and Language School:

The New Arrivals Program provides intensive English as an Additional Language (EAL) tuition for students who have recently arrived in Australia from another country. Those who meet the eligibility criteria are able to access EAL tuition for between six and twelve months.

Every effort is made by staff at Preston North East primary to assist families to enrol their eligible, newly arrived children in the New Arrivals Program.

EAL in mainstream settings

Once students have left the Language School and returned to their mainstream classroom they will continue to be supported in their integration into mainstream education. EAL at Preston North East Primary also caters for those students who are not recently arrived but speak another language at home and require help with their English development.

Multicultural Aides:

Multicultural aides will be employed in the school to support EAL students adapt to mainstream classes.

The employment of multicultural aides aim to support the language and cultural needs to students and their families enrolled at the school.

EAL Support Teachers:

Where possible qualified EAL teachers will support EAL students.

EAL staff may withdraw small groups of children or work alongside them within their classrooms depending upon the requirements of the students. EAL staff will support classroom teachers in providing appropriate programs for students.

Classroom Teachers

The majority of EAL students' time is spent in their classroom. It is therefore important that classroom teachers are aware of issues surrounding second language acquisition and are able to explicitly teach vocabulary, pronunciation and English grammar.

EAL Reports:

EAL students are assessed against the EAL curriculum. EAL profiles, aligned with the EAL curriculum, are maintained for each student. This document is used to set learning goals and to measure student achievement. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher and the EAL teacher to track student progress on the EAL profile.

All EAL students are reported on using the EAL curriculum. This report is written by the classroom teacher, in negotiation with the EAL teacher, where appropriate.

Transferring to English Curriculum

As students learn more English, their learning begins to correspond to the English Standards. If the assessment of an EAL student on the English Curriculum is within acceptable year level parameters, then they are transitioned to the English Curriculum for reporting.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in July 2023 and is scheduled for review in July 2026