

Currently over 20 languages are spoken in East Ayrshire including Polish, Russian, Arabic, Latvian, Chinese and Urdu. The English as an Additional Language (EAL) team is part of East Ayrshire Support Team (EAST). It provides support for children and young people from 2 to 18 years who:

- have little or no English
- have limited English
- appear fluent in English but are not achieving to their full potential

The EAL team is made up of teachers, bilingual assistants and a pupil support assistant who work in Early Childhood Centres and schools across East Ayrshire on a peripatetic basis. A Principal Teacher has first line responsibility for the EAL team.

Staff within the EAL team undertake additional personal study to remain abreast of current best practice regarding EAL children and have links with national groups including SEALCC¹.

Referral procedures

Request for Assistance forms should be made to the Principal Teacher of the EAL team by schools and Early Childhood Centres. Educational establishments can also contact the EAL team for advice to support parents/carers and staff on meeting the needs of EAL children.

The EAL team contributes to the authority's support policies and procedures to reflect best practice as detailed in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 through:

- Consultation, liaison, advisory support
- Curriculum & Staff Development
- Direct teaching
- Supporting early identification and assessment

What the EAL team does

Consultation, liaison, advisory support

- Provides advisory support on meeting the needs of EAL children, including useful strategies and resources, to make the curriculum accessible
- Provides advice to parents/carers on bilingualism
- Provides advisory support and information on alternative courses and examinations for secondary staged pupils
- Participates in multi-disciplinary meetings for planning and review

Curriculum & Staff Development

- Provides guidance to colleagues in educational establishments who are making provision for EAL children
- Delivers career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities for colleagues to increase knowledge and understanding in this area
- Provides training on the use of appropriate technology. The use of Talking Pens, which help

communication in a range of different languages, is encouraged

Direct teaching

- Prepares/assists in the preparation of teaching materials
- Provides direct teaching support across the curriculum as appropriate, as well as providing a monitoring role
- Encourages the use of home languages and bilingual resources in the classroom e.g. bilingual glossaries, online dictionaries, iPads and apps

Support with assessment

- Carries out initial assessments to help determine the level of English of children new to the authority
- Carries out home language assessment of pre-school EAL children to help build a holistic profile (conducted by the bilingual support assistants in Polish, Chinese and Arabic)
- Supports educational establishments to build profiles of EAL children through holistic assessment
- Supports educational establishments through contextual assessment of EAL children with additional needs
- Liaises closely with other teams within EAST and agencies/partners to help meet the needs of EAL children

¹Scottish EAL Coordinating Council (SEALCC)

Home links

Staff in the EAL team adopt a holistic approach in supporting EAL children, and close links are established with the families of children and young people. The EAL team works closely with partners and agencies to help enable bilingual families to participate fully in their children's education. These links are developed through dialogue, workshops and both formal and informal meetings. In addition, the team helps parents/carers at risk of isolation to engage within the community through a variety of projects. The bilingual support assistants facilitate communication through the use of home languages.

Useful links

Scottish EAL Co-ordinating Council (SEALCC) is a network of professionals from all local authorities across Scotland who are involved in the management of EAL provision in schools. It is a forum to discuss national issues which affect learners who have English as an additional language in Scotland.

Scottish Association for Teaching English as an Additional Language (SATEAL) organises an annual conference for educators across Scotland who are working with bilingual learners.

For further information please contact:

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EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Service Leaflet

**English as an
Additional
Language (EAL)
Team**