Ensuring Effective Inclusion for Bilingual Learners

Good Practice for Teachers, Educational Establishments and Local Authorities
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I am very pleased to introduce this updated resource which aims to help those working with bilingual learners by identifying good practice in supporting children whose first language is not English to access the curriculum.

Scotland is home to hundreds of thousands of first, second and third generation immigrants, as well as ethnic minority communities, who have English as an Additional Language. It is crucial, therefore, that we value children’s and young people’s home languages and see these as a rich resource for learning, developing competences in the language of schooling. Through such a rich range of home languages, we can also celebrate the linguistic and cultural heritage that bilingual learners bring to the classroom and to the wider school community.

This resource supports teachers of bilingual children to explore and develop approaches which are beneficial to all learners and provide language support in multicultural and multilingual settings. Additionally, the resource supports teachers to enhance cultural and linguistic diversity in their own classrooms. Bilingual learners bring with them key strengths, in particular the advantage of having intercultural competences as a result of knowing different languages.
Learning and using different languages have all been shown to have beneficial effects on children and young people’s cognition. Teachers should ensure that bilingual learners capitalise on developing proficiency in more than one language.

Language education, and in particular the learning of English, has a major role to play in supporting the integration of young bilingual learners into education systems, the labour market and society at large; this integration in turn helps to create a more cohesive community and society.

Education has a key role to play in promoting an inclusive society where those from a range of cultural and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to flourish. This updated resource provides clear, practical advice for education practitioners on how best to support bilingual learners and help ensure all our learners achieve their potential.

I would like to pay special thanks to the Scottish English as an Additional Language Coordinating Council (SEALCC), the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde, and Edinburgh and Glasgow City Councils who have contributed to updating this resource.
Introduction

The purpose of this resource is to identify good practice in supporting children who are accessing the curriculum through English as an additional language (EAL). There have recently been considerable changes in legislation and policy that impact on support for bilingual learners. The main changes have focused on encouraging educational establishments to be more proactive in addressing the learning needs, and raising the achievement of, bilingual learners.

This resource aims to support staff in educational establishments to understand better the strengths and development needs of bilingual learners and to address them more effectively within the mainstream classroom. The contents should also be helpful to educational managers and local authorities, as well as to other practitioners across the broader educational domain.

Inclusion, race equality, cultural diversity, bilingualism and effective additional language provision must be considered by all educational establishments, regardless of their current ethnic composition.
Introduction to bilingualism

What do we mean by ‘bilingual learner’?

Bilingual learners are individuals who function in more than one language in their daily lives.

The term ‘bilingual’ emphasises that learners already have one language and that English is a second or additional language. The term does not imply an equal or specified level of fluency in two or more languages.

Who are the bilingual learners in Scotland?1

Bilingual learners live throughout Scotland and the demography of the country is changing rapidly. Bilingual learners are not a homogeneous group. They differ from each other in many ways, including (in no particular order):

- their home language(s)2
- the number of other languages they speak
- their cultural or religious background vs their previous educational experience
- their level of proficiency in English and home language(s)
- their personalities, learning styles and other individual differences
- their other additional support needs including, for example the potential for high achievement, general or specific learning difficulties, sensory impairment
- their pastoral needs
- their level of community and home support
- the breadth of their exposure to English language and Scottish culture
- their social and economic backgrounds.

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1 Although much of the good practice will be equally applicable to learners of and through Gaelic and to speakers of Scots, the support of Gaelic learners and the need to raise the profile of Scots within the curriculum are addressed directly in other documents.

2 The term ‘home language’ is used in this document to refer to the language(s), other than English, used by the child with his/her family/carers. The home language is usually the first language that the child learns, the medium for pre-school learning and will be the vehicle through which pre-literacy skills are developed.
Introduction to bilingualism
What do we mean by ‘bilingual learner’?
continued

What every teacher needs to know about bilingualism

Seventy per cent of the world’s population is bilingual and regularly uses more than one language in daily life. In global terms, bilingualism is the norm.

One common misperception about bilingualism was that the brain had limited capacity for learning languages and that the first language a child learned (L1) would interfere with the learning of the second language (L2). This led to a belief that learners should be advised to concentrate on English at the expense of their home language.

Global research has dispelled such myths!

The reality is that the brain has an unlimited capacity for learning language. The first language that the child learns provides the best foundation for learning additional languages and new concepts. It is vital to continue progress in the home language, as additional languages and new concepts are developed at school.
Section 1

Introduction to bilingualism
What do we mean by ‘bilingual learner’?

Bilingualism brings with it definite cognitive advantages

Many of these advantages are important for raising the achievement of bilingual learners across the curriculum. They may include:

- greater awareness of how language operates. This can help with the development of literacy skills, especially decoding, and with the learning of other languages
- enhanced problem solving abilities, which are useful for maths and ICT
- heightened creative potential, which may display itself in writing and critical understanding
- an awareness of the importance of context and audience in language use.

These advantages are enhanced if learners are able to read and write in all of their languages (bilateral). Being able to read and write in more than one language allows learners to develop their confidence as readers and also connect with their own heritage and cultural identity.
Introduction to bilingualism
What do we mean by ‘bilingual learner’?

We can appreciate the nature of these advantages if we look at the following analogy:

Jane has one pair of glasses with yellow-tinted lenses. To her, the world looks only yellow.

Imram has two pairs of glasses. One has yellow-tinted lenses. When he wears these, the world looks yellow. The other pair has blue-tinted lenses. When he wears these, the world looks blue. He has a choice of how to view the world – through yellow- or blue-tinted lenses. He can compare his different perceptions of the world with the different shades and tones that the different lenses highlight. He can choose when to wear the different lenses, and can share perceptions of the world with other yellow-tinted spectacle wearers, or compare perceptions with those who wear blue or any other colour of lens.

He can also wear the yellow and blue lenses at the same time and experience the merging of the colours into green, but can recognise – unlike Jane – that the world is not yellow or blue or green, but that the perception of the world depends very much on the lenses through which one views it. Further, Imram can share his kaleidoscopic-world view with Jane who is confined within her yellow-tinted picture of reality.

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3 Taken from Languages for Life: Bilingual Pupils 5–14, Dundee: SCCC, 1994
### Introduction to bilingualism

**What do we mean by ‘bilingual learner’?**

Continued

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#### Key questions when considering bilingualism

**What do we mean by language proficiency?**

Research into classroom language distinguishes between the learner’s ability to use any language for:

- **social purposes** – this includes the language used during play, everyday conversation and normal classroom interaction. In other words, the language is used in situations where the meaning is made clear by the context and the cognitive demand is low.

- **academic purposes** – this includes the use of language for learning, to access the curriculum. The meaning is carried largely by the language alone and the cognitive demand is higher.

**How long does it take to develop this proficiency in an additional language such as English?**

- **Language for social purposes** – this can develop in two years or less.

- **Language for academic purposes** – this can take from 5 to 11 years to develop, depending on the previous educational experience and the extent of home language development.

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**What are the implications for educational staff?**

- The home language is vitally important – the school needs to provide the parents/carers with every encouragement to maintain and develop it.

- Competence in social English does not necessarily mean that a pupil will have understanding at a deeper conceptual level.

- Judgements about the child’s academic potential should not be made on the basis of their competence in social English alone.

- Support for bilingual learners needs to be carefully planned in order that they develop language for academic purposes.

- Strategies which support the development of language for academic purposes are beneficial for all learners.

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4 Cummins, J, Bilingualism and Special Education: Issues in Assessment and Pedagogy, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 1984 (see also www.iteachilearn.com/Cummins/bicscalp.html/)

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Recent policy statements and legislation have explicitly raised the profile of bilingual learners in Scottish educational establishments. Key directives emphasise the need for local authorities and schools to address the needs of bilingual learners – individually, proactively and inclusively.

UN Rights of the Child - in child friendly language
“Rights” are things that every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important.

In terms of bilingualism, the following Rights are especially pertinent:

**Article 8**
You have the right to an identity - an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you. Language and culture are essential parts of our identity, this should be celebrated, encouraged and nurtured in schools and in wider society. No child should have to hide who they are.

**Article 12**
You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously. In order to give their opinion, children should have the freedom and opportunity to use languages other than English to make their voice heard.

**Article 14**
You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you. Attitudes, values and beliefs are integral parts of culture and identity. Children may have multifaceted identities reflecting their multicultural heritage.

**Article 29**
Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people. Children's multilingual talents and their diverse cultures should be celebrated and encouraged. This linguistic ability is not only good for the child academically, cognitively, socially, emotionally and vocationally, but it also benefits wider society and the economy.

**Article 30**
You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right. Opportunities to use first language in school should be given, and opportunities to develop their home language(s) should be offered. This promotes the wealth of benefits of bilingualism and also enhances general literacy skills in English too. Children and their families should have their culture valued and celebrated.
The education of bilingual learners in the current Scottish context continued

Equality Act

This legislation covers those who identify as having one of 9 protected characteristics. These are:
- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy or maternity

The legislation requires all public bodies to:
- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality
- Foster good relations

This means that schools are required to ensure that EAL learners are not affected by discrimination, that their equality is promoted and that they have good relations with other learners who do not have EAL.

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act (2000)
Every child or young person has the right and the entitlement to education, as detailed in this act.
The educational support for bilingual learners in the current Scottish context

Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended 2009)

The Additional Support for Learning Act 2004, (as amended), requires education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of pupils for whose education they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs.

The broad and inclusive term “additional support needs” applies to children and young people who, for whatever reason, require additional support, long or short term, in order to help them make the most of their school education and to be included fully in their learning.

By supporting practitioners in working with bilingual learners, we aim to better equip practitioners so that bilingual learners are effectively supported and are able to make the most of their learning.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence is intended to help children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century, including skills for learning, life and work.

Its purpose is often summed up as helping children and young people to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors.

These are referred to as the four capacities.

The Curriculum for Excellence provides a helpful approach that gives teachers the freedom to adapt the curriculum to reflect the needs of the children and young people they work with, enabling the curriculum to be inclusive of the cultures and languages of EAL learners.
The education of bilingual learners in the current Scottish context

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

Taking a GIRFEC approach allows teachers to meet the health and wellbeing needs of EAL learners. Using the wellbeing indicators helps teachers to identify particular needs that some EAL learners have, such as experiencing racism or having to develop new friendships.

How Good is Our School? (4th Edition)/How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare?

The self-evaluation framework How Good is Our School? provides challenge questions around how well a school is doing to ensure the best possible outcomes for all learners in relation to wellbeing, equality, inclusion, attainment and achievement. The use of a wide range of approaches to embed language learning within the curriculum will ensure that practitioners build an inclusive learning environment; it is important to remember that a pupil’s first language can support their learning.

Questions from the framework which might help your thinking in your approach to supporting bilingual learners include:

- How well can we demonstrate improved attainment for groups and individuals facing barriers to learning, including poverty? (QI 3.1)
- Have we successfully established an inclusive learning environment? How do we know? (QI 3.1)
- To what extent does our school celebrate diversity? (QI 3.1)
- How well do we track and recognise achievements? (QI 3.2)
The National Improvement Framework has key priorities for achieving excellence and equity in education:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
  • Improving your skills to support bilingual learners will in turn support their development in literacy and numeracy.

- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
  • Bilingual learners are varied in their profile, some may be affected by poverty-related issues.

- Improvement in children and young people’s health and wellbeing
  • An inclusive learning environment will reduce the risk of social isolation among bilingual learners leading to better health and wellbeing.

- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
  • The more successful schools are in achieving inclusive outcomes for their learners, the better are the chances that these learners will go on to succeed. Adopting inclusive practices in supporting bilingual learners in their learning journey will help to increase chances of learning journeys leading to positive destinations.

General Teaching Council Standards (GTCS)

GTCS maintains a suite of Professional Standards which are underpinned by the themes of values, sustainability and leadership. Teachers who participate in professional learning around EAL will be able to link activities to various aspects of the professional standards.

The following links provide:
- a brief introduction to the GTCS Professional Standards
- some suggestions of which aspects of the standards link with professional learning on EAL

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 - 2022

Scottish Government’s strategy for refugee integration recognises the importance of having skilled practitioners within the education system to effectively support learners whose first language is not English. This includes refugees and asylum seekers.
Section 3 Partnership with parents/carers

Bilingual parents/carers should be involved in their child’s learning at home and in schools or other educational establishments. They can introduce and reinforce concepts in the home language that can be consolidated in English at school.

Research shows that a strong basis in the home language is a key factor in enhancing bilingual learners’ achievement and self-esteem. Bilingual parents/carers are often the only people available who are able to provide this kind of support.

Educational establishments will already have procedures and practices for developing partnerships with parents. There are additional issues that need to be taken into account when involving parents/carers of bilingual learners.

This section will look at:
- establishing an ethos that welcomes bilingual parents/carers
- initial contacts and enrolment
- use of interpreting/translation services
- involving bilingual parents/carers in their child’s learning and the life of the school.

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5 For a review of research on bilingualism and cognition, see: Baker, C, Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism (3rd edition), Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 2001, pp.135–161
Partnership with parents/carers

Establishing an ethos that welcomes bilingual parents/carers

Key questions for teachers and leaders in schools:
1. When a parent enters your establishment, do the pictures on the classroom walls, the displays in the reception area and corridors, the prospectuses and other literature convey that your school reflects a multilingual and multiracial Scotland?

2. Would parents from black and minority ethnic communities and those who use a language other than English at home find your establishment welcoming?

‘Our school literature contains photographs from different ethnic backgrounds and includes specific references to our support of home languages and cultures, and interests. We refer to a family literature project which we established within the school. One part of this involved parents in writing stories about their children’s grandmothers in their home language. These books were a great hit with all children.’

‘Our authority has recently employed a part time bilingual classroom assistant in our school. This has had an amazing impact on the children’s willingness to use their home language both at home and at school and has led to much greater involvement by their parents in the life of the school. All the children became fascinated with different scripts and different forms of expression in each others’ languages.’

‘We have multicultural book bags that are available to all parents. These contain a story book, usually dual language⁶, and a number of artefacts reflecting aspects of the story and its culture. They can be taken home and shared with children.’

‘Our local authority has provided training for school office staff and other front line staff in communicating with parents/carers who speak little or no English. This looked at how to use gesture and visual support as well as internet translation services.’

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6 Dual language books are available from a number of publishers and websites (see Appendix A). The text is written in English and in the child’s home language, on the same page or on alternate pages.
Partnership with parents/carers

Initial contacts and enrolment

Enrolment is an important first step in identifying and gathering information about a new bilingual learner. This may take place at the time the parent/carer first makes contact with the school or other educational establishment. However, it may be more appropriate to set a later date for enrolment to allow the establishment time to arrange for an interpreter and other key staff to be present and to gather relevant literature in the home language. At initial contact, you should find out:

- whether an interpreter is required (see opposite)
- language(s) used in the home
- contact name and telephone number.

You should set a date for enrolment, if possible.

The enrolment interview is an opportunity to put the parents/carers at their ease, show them around the establishment and find out, as part of standard enrolment procedures:

- the correct spelling and pronunciation of the learner’s name
- the learner’s preferred name
- the language(s) spoken at home, by whom and to whom
- the learner’s experience of reading and writing (including pre-literacy experience) in their home language
- previous education, subjects studied, likes and dislikes and any previous experience of English
- any dietary, health or cultural requirements
- lines of communication with the home, whether communication should be verbal or written (or both), and the need for translators and interpreters
- whether the learner has any other additional support needs and any steps taken to identify these.

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7 Education Guide for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Scotland For information on how to locate and use translation and interpreter services, if they are not available in your area, see www.qca.org.uk/10005_10028.html
For downloadable translated letters for schools, see Primary Resources
Partnership with parents/carers continued

The school/establishment should make sure that parents/carers:
- are introduced to the class or pastoral care teacher, pre-school staff and other personnel such as support staff (as appropriate)
- understand that they have an important part to play in maintaining and developing the learner’s home language
- are familiar with the authority’s arrangements for interpreting and translating
- know about the relevant language classes including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL for Adults), and home language classes for children through local/community-based provision
- are encouraged and enabled to take full part in the school/establishment community
- understand the rules concerning uniform, punctuality and absences
- are aware of their rights regarding free school meals and clothing grants
- know about the school and authority procedures for dealing with racism and other forms of bullying
- are provided with copies of the school handbook and information about EAL support. If parents are unable to read the handbook, the interpreter should take them through it, possibly at a separate meeting.

Use of interpreting/translation services

Educational establishments should normally consider using a trained interpreter when they wish to communicate with parents whose preferred means of communication is not English. The use of relations, friends, their own children or older learners as interpreters is not regarded as best practice. Unless the school is satisfied that lack of English will not present a significant barrier to communication for any of the participants, an interpreter should be employed where possible.

Local authorities have a duty to make interpreting and translating services available to educational establishments. This includes telephone services as well as face-to-face services. These arrangements should be made clear to all educational establishments.

‘Our authority has produced guidelines for schools on the use of translating and interpreting services. These have helped us to make the best use of interpreters.’
Involving bilingual parents/carers in their child’s learning and in the life of the school/establishment

The following example of good practice shows one way in which parents/carers of young bilingual learners were involved in a bilingual paired reading programme.

**The three principal aims of the programme were to:**

- set up a paired reading programme using dual language books so that the parents would be directly involved in their children’s reading and in talking about books
- encourage parents to use the home language as well as English to support their children’s learning and in that way to develop their home language and English in tandem
- combine the paired reading programme with a weekly coffee morning so that the parents could come into the school and meet each other and staff in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

We organised quite an extensive library of dual language books for the parents/carers to use with their children. We arranged for interpreters to come to the first meeting so that nobody would feel that there was a language barrier. We watched a video⁸ which promoted the message about the benefits of bilingualism.

Parents/carers who were literate in their home language and English gradually grew more confident in using the dual language texts and their home language freely at the meetings. Some of the parents/carers, who were not literate in their home language, used only the English portion of the dual language texts initially. Later, they often used their home language to reinforce their children’s understanding.

It was quite a revelation to all the staff that some children who were quite passive in class were full of enthusiasm and really relished the opportunity of working with their parents/carers. One or two of them were instrumental in ensuring that their parents/carers attended! All the parents/carers also became very enthusiastic about coming into the school to work with their children. One of the most successful aspects of the programme was the establishment and reinforcement of good relations with the parents.

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⁸ Watson, S., and Humby, T., Supporting Young Bilingual Children and their Families, Edinburgh: City of Edinburgh Council, 2005. Available from the City of Edinburgh Council Education Department, 10 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

This section will look at how appropriate support can be planned and managed in the classroom. It includes consideration of the following:

- Class and group allocation
- Planning for EAL learners
- Strategies for delivering appropriate support for EAL learners
- Early reading and writing
- Extending reading and writing in different subject areas
- The functions and roles of the EAL Service.

Class and group allocation
Schools/establishments should place bilingual learners in the appropriate year group for their age, regardless of their proficiency in English or previous educational background. Learners should be involved in mainstream class activities from the start. At all times they should also have opportunities to mix with able and articulate speakers of English and, where possible, with speakers who share their home language.

Implications for teachers

- Groupings must take into account learners' potential, and be flexible enough to respond to close monitoring of individual progress.
- Decisions about the level and type of support should not be based on social fluency alone. The learner's apparent competence in social situations can be misleading and additional support may be necessary to enable access to the mainstream curriculum.
- Learners may have grasped a concept, but may not be able to express this in oral or written English. They may not have understood the nature or purpose of the task, or may not have mastered the formal language required to communicate what they actually know. This may lead them to underperform in formal assessments or written tasks.
- Bilingual learners' grasp of academic language may not progress in line with the demands of the curriculum. Learners may fail to make expected progress and may require additional support, even if they have not needed EAL support for a long time.
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom continued

Planning for EAL learners

Three processes are involved simultaneously as a child acquires English as an additional language⁹:

Social processes
- Learners need to have the opportunity to interact with able and articulate speakers of English within the mainstream classroom. They will then hear good models and be able to try out and modify their own English.

Cognitive processes
- Learners acquire English best through engagement with mainstream learning tasks rather than from a specific English course book.
- As learners hear and read English, they are actively involved in working out the structure and rules of the language.
- They may not be able to use this language accurately or appropriately in their own speech or writing for some time.
- Some learners spend a long time absorbing the new language before they actually use it in speech or writing (sometimes called ‘the silent period’).

Linguistic processes
- The process of acquiring English as an additional language in younger learners is broadly similar to the process involved in acquiring the first language they have learned.
- Younger learners are helped if new language structures are repeated during the natural flow of classroom activities (e.g. during class investigations, story time).
- Older learners are often helped if, once rules have been explained to them, they are given the opportunity to use them during redrafting, oral presentation to other learners, or in a follow-up activity.

These processes are assisted by fluency in the home language. For example, if learners are familiar with concepts such as time, capacity and dimension in their home language, it is easier for them to acquire the English they need to express these concepts.

The following questions should be asked when planning for bilingual learners:
- What does the bilingual learner bring to the task?
- What are the task demands?
- What additional support needs to be planned?

In the grid on the next page, this information is used to create a planning template for a 12 year-old British-born Punjabi speaker who is learning about erosion in geography¹⁰:

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¹⁰
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom
continued

In the grid below, this information is used to create a planning template for a 12 year-old British-born Punjabi speaker who is learning about erosion in geography\textsuperscript{10}:

This template can be customised to accommodate different curricular areas and particular bilingual learner needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social</th>
<th>What does the bilingual learner bring to the task?</th>
<th>What are the task demands?</th>
<th>What additional support needs to be planned?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good social skills and social English. Familiarity with group work. Tends to rely on friends to provide answers.</td>
<td>Sustaining group work in class, and collaborating in pair work during walk in school environment.</td>
<td>Assign learner to new group. Decide on roles for members of his group – initially give him a listening and recording role. After some exposure to the task, change this to a reporting role.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cognitive | Experience of erosion during school camp and in environment of school. | To identify causes of erosion and match ‘cause cards’ to photos of erosion. Describe processes of erosion in school environment. | Clear instructions about aims and phases of lesson. Provide glossary of technical terms. Provide key visual in form of flow chart to show process. |

| Linguistic | Can use basic expressions of cause and effect in description of process. | Technical vocabulary. Description of processes of erosion. | Need to discuss photos beforehand to elicit key words, e.g. scree, frost/wind damage, wear (n.). Produce sentence frames to consolidate/extend causal sentence structure and use of causal verbs (produce, give rise to, result in). |

\textsuperscript{10} Adapted from Gravelle, M, Planning for Bilingual Learners: an inclusive curriculum Stoke on Trent: Trentham, 2000, p.8
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

Strategies for delivering appropriate support for EAL learners

Key to all these strategies is high quality adult-child and child-child interaction.

Recognise and build on previous knowledge and experience
- For learners who have recently arrived from another country or school, find out as much as possible about their prior educational experience (see Section 3). Use this to inform decisions about appropriate course choice, personal learning planning, extracurricular activities and level and nature of support.
- Many learners who are new arrivals will be familiar – from their previous schooling – with many skills and concepts, and will not need to relearn them; they will, however, require support to access these in English.
- Be aware that learners may have different cultural experiences, even if they have always lived in Scotland. Teachers should provide opportunities for learners to voice and build on these experiences through questioning, group/pair discussion, and personal learning planning.
- At the outset of the lesson, ensure that bilingual learners understand the learning aims and outcomes and are aware of the order of topics. It is helpful throughout the lesson if it is clear when one topic has ended and the next is beginning. At the end of the lesson, allow time to sum up.

Make meaning clear by ensuring that it is not communicated only by the English used in class
- Bilingual learners, like other learners, need to be challenged at the appropriate cognitive level – cognitive challenge comes with understanding of lesson materials.
- Check comprehension throughout the lesson.
- Cognitively and linguistically challenging activities can become accessible to bilingual learners if there is a high degree of visual and other support to make the meaning of classroom activities clear.
- Examples of these kinds of support are:
  - concrete materials (objects/pictures to move around)
  - key visuals (e.g. a diagram showing the life-cycle of a frog)
  - graphic organisers – flow charts, matrices, timelines
  - activity charts, identification of key lesson points and vocabulary
  - writing, speaking and note-taking frames
  - video, PowerPoint, computer graphics
  - demonstrations by learners or teacher.
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom continued

Provide opportunities for collaborative work
- Collaborative activities provide learners with opportunities to try out new language and work out new concepts.
- These activities need to be structured and focused on an outcome e.g. completion of a diagram or matrix, sequencing or ranking activities, barrier games¹¹.
- Group and pair work provide the opportunity for learners to monitor their own language use and learning and for teachers to gain useful formative feedback.

Encourage the use of the home language
The following resources/learning opportunities will encourage learners to use and make links with their home language:
- bilingual dictionaries and glossaries
- dual language resources
- bilingual staff and parents who can support learning by using the home language
- discussion, note-taking, writing in the home language before writing/reading tasks in English
- poems, songs, rhymes in the home language
- multilingual posters and labels
- ICT resources and inter school/international computer networking.

Pay explicit attention to the language structures and vocabulary of English¹²
- Classroom texts introduce and reinforce grammatical forms, for example expressing cause and effect, recalling past events, expressing doubt (may, might), and vocabulary. These can be emphasised during discussion and written work.
- Recurring patterns of inaccuracy in written work should be discussed with older learners and the correct rule introduced.
- Paragraph structures, genre, and register can be taught, for example, by pointing out topic sentences and how they are extended, using cloze procedure to draw attention to linking words, reassembling scrambled paragraphs and so on.
- Writing and speaking frames provide phrases which help learners to structure long stretches of text.
- Lists of key vocabulary are useful. Activities, like matching words to definitions, can reinforce technical terms.

The purpose of each of these support strategies is to develop learner independence.

¹¹ For downloadable resources prepared for bilingual learners, see www.collaborativelearning.org
¹² For useful sources of material for all stages of education, see Appendix A
### Early reading and writing

Many children who are learning to read and write in English at school have experience of the written word in their mother tongue and in other languages. This provides a valuable starting point for the acquisition of literacy in English as well as the further development of their home language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The child's experience of the written word in another language</th>
<th>Potential benefits for learning to read and write in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can read/write the script (decode) but with little or no understanding.</td>
<td>● Understanding that reading/writing involves expressing the sounds of a language by a written symbol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can read/write another language with understanding.</td>
<td>● Development of phonics and visual memory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot read/write but comes from home where there is written material in other languages.</td>
<td>● Understanding of strategies required to read/write meaningfully in another language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Awareness of the value of reading and writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Experience of seeing parents and other family members reading and writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Experience of being part of that process by being read to, or by being encouraged to copy their name or to dictate contributions to letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members cannot read or write in another language, but tell stories, jokes, play language games.</td>
<td>● Experience of a range of genres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Realisation that using language creatively is fun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

Early reading and writing continued

Important implications:

1. Teachers need to find out what previous experience bilingual children have of reading and writing in other scripts. This information is important for planning their early reading/writing experiences in English.

2. Children who can decode in another script often have good phonics awareness and will decode well in English. Fluent and accurate reading aloud can, however, mask poor understanding of the text.

3. Poor understanding of a text or slow and unimaginative writing is likely to be due to reasons other than poor decoding or secretarial skills. Difficulties are frequently caused for bilingual learners by:
   - lack of familiarity with the structure of English sentences
   - a narrow grasp of English vocabulary
   - failure to understand the cultural meaning of a text (e.g., a story about pets when the learner’s experience of animals is that they are kept for guarding or hunting), a maths problem based around fundraising through a sponsored swim, when a sponsored swim is an unfamiliar concept
   - a written task (e.g., a letter to a pen pal or an argument for or against foxhunting).

4. For these reasons, standardised reading tests may misrepresent the reading potential of bilingual learners. Bilingual learners may be included inappropriately in literacy recovery programmes geared towards English speakers who have very different needs.

Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom continued

The support needs of bilingual learners at the early stages of literacy overlap with, but are different in many respects from, those of English speakers. This has been recognised by the introduction of intensive reading programmes, such as the following:

'We used a mixture of fiction, non-fiction texts and poetry at a variety of levels. The learners chose a new book every day before taking it home to share with their family. The school had previously briefed family members, using an interpreter where possible, on how best to support their children. This book then formed the basis for work the next day. A reading diary was also shared with the family so that parents could add their comments about reading and about the texts. We emphasised to the parents that although the majority of books going home were in English, any discussion with the child about the texts should be in whatever language the family felt most comfortable using. On occasions we sent home dual language texts which families welcomed.

The next day at school, children were asked to recall the story they had read the previous day. Picture prompts were used after an initial attempt to recall the text. Recounting the story in their own words not only supported understanding but gave practice in using unfamiliar vocabulary and structures. More detailed comprehension questions led into a deeper discussion of the meaning, relevance and implications of the story, which often brought in references to the child’s home culture. When appropriate, children were asked to write, either to practise an unfamiliar spelling pattern or grammatical structure, or to extend ideas from the text they had read.'

Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

**Selecting appropriate early reading materials**

Early reading materials can be produced by the children themselves individually or as a class, through writing projects involving parents, in single language or dual language versions.

**Supportive published texts will contain some of the following features:**
- Language that sounds authentic and is a good model of language in use.
- Naturally repeated language structures and vocabulary.
- Cumulative and predictable events.
- Universal themes – e.g. good versus evil; kindness rewarded.
- Themes from learners’ own culture or experience.
- Clear and relevant illustrations.
- Clues to meaning available from the context.
- Clear organisation of text.
- Potential for extension through drama, art, puppet shows and writing.

**Extending reading and writing in different subject areas**

Support for the literacy development of bilingual learners should aim to:

- help the learner to understand a particular written text or engage in a specific writing task
- teach transferable strategies for reading and writing, which the learner will be able to employ when working independently on new tasks
- extend the learner’s ability to understand and use English.
Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

The following approaches are particularly helpful for more advanced learners of English:

Before reading/writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What the teacher does</th>
<th>How learners use this independently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using titles, paragraph headings, pictures, notebooks etc., discuss with learners what they already know about the topic and note familiar vocabulary and phrases.</td>
<td>Relate new reading and writing to what they already know about the topic and the language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Encourage learners to think about:
- the purpose of their reading
- the aim and audience for their writing.

Extend learners’ knowledge about:
- the word families which might be used in the text (e.g. a text about slavery might contain words like slave, enslave, slave owner, slave trader, slave ship, plantation, emancipate, fetters, etc.)
- the type of structures and patterns of organisation needed (e.g. for expressing cause and effect, classifying, describing historical events or natural/industrial processes).

We read and write for particular purposes. The purpose tells us:
- what it is important to look for and remember as we read
- how to construct a written text and which form of writing to use.

Keep a record of new vocabulary, phrases and sentence structures and try to use them again in writing as soon as possible.

Use conventional and topic dictionaries to build up word families.

Use different types of texts as models for writing.
## Supporting the development of English as an additional language in the classroom

The following approaches are particularly helpful for more advanced learners of English:

### During and after reading/writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What the teacher does</th>
<th>How learners use this independently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Represent the ideas in the text through story boards,</td>
<td>Extend this to note-taking, mind-mapping and planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diagrams, flow charts, pictures, and use these as the</td>
<td>for writing independently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basis for writing about the ideas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enable the learner to understand inferences and the</td>
<td>Use this knowledge to develop:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author’s point of view.</td>
<td>● skills in critical analysis of text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage learners to compare this with their own</td>
<td>● understanding of how different means of expression can be used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>experience and opinion.</td>
<td>put across different viewpoints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the learner to pass on the information derived</td>
<td>The information we gather from one source will need to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from the text in a different form e.g. to a different</td>
<td>presented differently if we are to communicate it in another form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audience, for a different purpose, in a different format.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>needed (e.g. for expressing cause and effect, classifying,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>describing historical events or natural/industrial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>processes).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the learner to edit written work, alone or</td>
<td>Edit work before producing a fair copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with a friend and support the learner to produce a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>redraft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The functions and roles of EAL support staff

Many education authorities have teams of EAL support staff.

EAL Staff work collaboratively with establishments’ management, staff, parents and other agencies to support effective teaching and learning across the curriculum for bilingual learners.

To maximise the effectiveness of this process, EAL staff should be used in a range of ways. These include the following.

Strategic support

- Liaison with the school or other educational establishment to identify barriers to the achievement of bilingual learners and to work with managers, teachers, other staff and parents to remove these barriers, as part of the process of school improvement planning.
- Staff development by providing short in-service courses, or by working directly with staff in a consultative or collaborative way to establish good practice in supporting bilingual learners.
- Advice on appropriate curriculum and topic development and on the purchase and use of resources.

Operational support

- Support class/subject teachers with assessment and planning for individual bilingual learners or groups of learners and undertake regular reviews of pupil progress with relevant staff. Where a bilingual learner is thought to have an additional support need not linked to development in EAL, it is important that EAL staff are involved with other staff in the identification, planning and review process.
- Direct teaching of bilingual learners individually or in groups with native speakers of English.

To enable good collaborative practice, time must be made available for these roles to be carried out.
Section 5

Assessing the progress of bilingual learners

This section will consider various aspects of assessing the progress of bilingual learners. These are:

- good practice in assessing bilingual learners
- bilingual learners with other additional support needs.

Good practice in assessing bilingual learners

Teachers working with bilingual learners often become aware that they do not perform as well as they would expect in assessments such as class tests and national assessments/qualifications. There can be a number of reasons for this:

- The language of the test prevents the pupil from demonstrating what they know about the subject matter.
- The pupil does not have sufficient experience of language for academic purposes to engage with the test.
- The assessment may be culturally biased.
- The purpose of the assessment and the setting in which it takes place may be unfamiliar to the pupil.
- The test does not take account of any disparity between a pupil’s cognitive ability and their English language development.

In order to succeed in tests and assessments, learners require to have well-developed skills in language for academic purposes. This can take from 5 to 11 years to develop in bilingual learners15. It is therefore important to take account of the pupil’s English language development when interpreting test results. This is particularly important when grades are used to make decisions about setting, grouping and programme planning.

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15 see Section 1
Assessing the progress of bilingual learners

Assessing English language development

The most effective approach is to build up a profile of a pupil. This should include:

- home language proficiency and use in learning
- identification of any transferable skills (e.g. literacy skills in the home language, transfer of skills used in the structured environment of the classroom to independent reading and writing)\(^6\)
- evidence of the development of English language skills from samples of work in different contexts and subject areas built up over time
- collation of information from different staff who are working with the pupil
- information from the individual pupil and parents/carers.

Stages of English language development

Language development can be described by dividing the process into the following five stages:

- New to English
- Early acquisition
- Developing competence
- Competent
- Fluent

Each stage is described by listing the key features of language in each of four areas:

- Communication
- Accessing the curriculum
- Technical aspects of language
- Support requirements.

The stage is determined by considering the overall profile of the pupil and how that matches up to the descriptors.

This can be a helpful way of describing a bilingual learner's English language development. However, the following points need to be noted:

- These are not prescriptive, but contain some key features of English language acquisition.
- Learners will not progress regularly through the stages, but may demonstrate features of more than one stage simultaneously.
- Some of the key features are more relevant to children at certain ages and stages.
- There are other aspects that can affect the stage of English language acquisition at which the learner is operating, such as the content of the curriculum, the methodology used, and school/classroom ethos. These can also affect pupil progress.
- Progression from one stage to another is not always linear; learners may plateau at a particular stage, if not sufficiently challenged, or may regress when facing unfamiliar learning demands.

\(^6\) see Section 4 – Extending reading and writing
Assessing the progress of bilingual learners
continued

Stages of English language acquisition
general descriptions

Learners make broad progress in acquiring English as an additional language in different ways and at different rates. Broad stages in this development are identified on the next page as descriptions to be applied on a ‘best fit’ basis. Progression from stage one to stage five can take up to 10 years and individuals are likely to show characteristics of more than one stage at one time. A judgement is usually needed over which stage best describes an individual’s language development, taking into account age, ability and length of time learning English.

### Stages of English language acquisition

**New to English**
- Silent period – may participate in activities but not speak.
- Relies on gesture to indicate meaning.
- Beginning to learn ‘survival’ language.
- Uses home language to communicate – spoken and written.

**Early acquisition**
- Understands more English than he/she can use.
- More interested in communication than correctness.
- Increasing vocabulary.
- Moving between two languages.

**Developing competence**
- Shows growing confidence in using English in most social situations.
- May choose to use home language but less reliant on this for understanding.
- Obvious gap between social language levels and ability to access and use academic language.
- Beginning to cope with more abstract learning.
- May underperform in formal tests, exams and written assessments.

**Competent**
- Competent in use of spoken English in many different contexts.
- Able to express and develop ideas orally but not always transferred so fluently into writing.
- Able to access information in complex texts.

**Fluent**
- Fluent communicator in English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Communication</strong></th>
<th><strong>Accessing the Curriculum</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silent period – may participate in activities but not speak.</td>
<td>Literacy in home language appropriate to age/stage and background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relies on gesture to indicate meaning.</td>
<td>May be able to decode English written texts but without comprehension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning to learn ‘survival’ language.</td>
<td>Watches and copies other learners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses home language to communicate – spoken and written.</td>
<td>Oral skills exceed written skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the early stages of developing literacy in English.
- Learns best with concrete, contextualised tasks.

- Language levels and ability to access and use academic language.
- Beginning to cope with more abstract learning.
- May underperform in formal tests, exams and written assessments.

- Able to express and develop ideas orally but not always transferred so fluently into writing.
- Able to access information in complex texts.
### Section 5

**Stages of English language acquisition**  
_Continued general descriptions_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New to English</th>
<th>Early acquisition</th>
<th>Developing competence</th>
<th>Competent</th>
<th>Fluent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical aspects</strong></td>
<td>• Beginning to put words into phrases.</td>
<td>• Phrases becoming more grammatically correct.</td>
<td>• Widening vocabulary but still has gaps, often, but not necessarily subject-specific</td>
<td>• Still developing understanding of genre, nuances of style, register, voice and purpose, linking and structuring ideas.</td>
<td>• Confident using higher order language skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of language</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Increasing awareness of tenses but still limited.</td>
<td>• Able to use a variety of tenses and more complex grammar.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Starting to self-correct.</td>
<td>• Can write independently but requires support for extended writing or more complex structures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Requires structures to support writing.</td>
<td>• Can operate independently, but requires support to access the curriculum fully.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support</strong></td>
<td>• Learner will require considerable support in order to access the curriculum.</td>
<td>• Learner will still need a significant amount of support in order to access the curriculum.</td>
<td>• Works well independently but requires support with developing higher order language skills.</td>
<td>• No additional support required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 5

Assessing the progress of bilingual learners

Bilingual learners with other additional support needs

When a bilingual child is failing to make expected progress, it is important to identify as early as possible whether that child also has an additional need which is affecting academic or social development. For example, some learners could have a physical disability, a sensory impairment, a specific language disorder, or social, emotional and behavioural difficulties¹⁸. Some bilingual learners may be particularly able and will need a more challenging curriculum.

In some cases, it is not difficult to identify that a bilingual learner has another additional support need – for example, a visual impairment or a physical disability. However, in many cases, this can be a more difficult judgement to make. Where the learner is failing to make expected progress and where it is unclear whether this is due to accessing the curriculum through English as an additional language, or whether they have learning difficulties (or both), the following actions will be helpful in reaching an early decision:

1. Take account of language and educational background
   - How long has the pupil been learning English? Has there been enough time to develop social and academic English?
   - How well developed is the home language? Is the learner literate in the home language? What previous educational experience does the pupil have? The more transferable skills the child has developed in the home language, the easier it will be to develop these in English. However, if these skills have not been sufficiently developed in the home language, then development in English will inevitably take longer.

2. Take account of other factors that may affect learning
   - Is the pupil experiencing similar difficulties in the home language? Find out from parents about their child's previous learning and language experience. If a pupil has a learning difficulty or a specific disorder, this will be apparent in the home language as well as in English.

   - Do methodologies and curriculum structure support bilingual learners? Does the school have a positive attitude to bilingualism? Do teachers take account of the needs of bilingual learners in their planning?

   - Are there outside factors that could be affecting the pupil's ability to learn? Is the pupil a victim of racial harassment? Are there problems at home? Has the learner suffered trauma?

¹⁸ For database of research articles on bilingual learners with additional support needs, see https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/education/research/mosaic/index.aspx
Assessing the progress of bilingual learners
continued

Take a holistic approach to the assessment

- Standardised tests may be biased against learners from groups other than those on whom the test is normed. If used, they should be considered alongside other assessment evidence and scores must be explicitly qualified by a statement such as: For cultural and linguistic reasons the norms of this test are not valid for this child. This score can at best be regarded as a measure of relative attainment and not as an indicator of ability or potential.¹⁹
- Collate information from all staff who work with the learner.
- Involve parents/carers throughout this process.
- Regularly review decisions made on the basis of assessment.

Supporting learners with other additional support needs

When planning support for bilingual learners with other additional support needs, the principles outlined in this resource apply, with any adaptation necessary taking account of the nature of the learner’s other needs.

In particular it is important to:
- provide opportunities for learners to use their home language
- ensure that learners and parents are fully involved in decision-making, by using interpreters where necessary
- be sensitive to the family’s cultural and religious background.

¹⁹ City of Edinburgh Council Psychological Services, Assessment of Bilingual Children: policy and guidelines, Edinburgh: City of Edinburgh Council, (no date), p.4
Checklists for action

What are the features of a supportive school/educational establishment?

1. Does the establishment recognise through its general ethos – including communications, displays of work and wall decorations – that Scotland is a multilingual and diverse society?

2. Does it have excellent relations with all sections of the community it serves, employing interpreters and translators where appropriate?

3. Do surveys show that all sections of the community feel involved and welcome in the establishment?

4. Are all staff aware of good practice in enrolling, supporting and assessing bilingual pupils?

5. Are all staff aware of good practice in enrolling, supporting and assessing bilingual learners?

6. Does the establishment maintain policies on bilingualism, race equality and equal opportunities that have the support of all staff and parents and that include provision for regular monitoring, evaluation and review?

7. Does the establishment, as a matter of course, take account of the presence and needs of bilingual learners and their families in all policy formulation, publications and communications?

8. Does the establishment’s improvement plan take full account of the above issues and give them priority within the staff development and review process and in planning staff development?

9. Are EAL and other support staff seen as full members of the academic community who can contribute at whole-school level to policy-making, improvement planning, curriculum planning, materials development, evaluation, reporting and teaching?

10. Is joint planning time allocated to allow EAL staff to liaise with other staff on a regular basis?

11. Are the purposes and intended outcomes of the support of bilingual learners clearly established and supported by management?
Checklists for action
continued

Does your establishment have good relationships with parents/carers?

1. Do you reflect on how linguistic and cultural diversity are shown in the visual aspect of the environment of the school/establishment?

2. Do you provide interpreting services at new enrolments, parental consultations, review meetings and other activities?

3. Do you use the particular skills and experience of bilingual staff – where available – to promote bilingualism?

4. Do you involve other establishment staff such as EAL teachers, pastoral care teachers and senior managers in establishing effective links with bilingual parents/carers?

5. Is there regular review of your establishment’s procedure and practice in enrolment of learners and involvement of parents/carers?

6. Do you ensure good communication with parents through the use of interpreters and translated materials and by having flexible arrangements for consultations?

7. Are home language and dual language materials available and used?

8. Do you involve bilingual parents/carers in the full range of activities taking place in the establishment and not just those which are related to their own culture, faith or language? (This will include PTA and School Board membership, participation in inspection and review processes and social events).

9. Are local events that recognise and celebrate diversity publicised to the whole school/establishment community?

10. Are all parents/carers – regardless of ethnic origin – kept informed about inclusion and race equality initiatives?
Checklists for action
continued

What are the features of a supportive learning environment?

1. Is the classroom welcoming and does it show a positive attitude to cultural diversity?
2. Are wall displays, including learners’ work, changed regularly?
3. Is the work of the class or subject teacher and that of the EAL teacher understood by all to be complementary and their roles flexible?
4. Are grouping arrangements flexible?
5. Are resources and different areas of the room clearly labelled in home languages and English, where possible?
6. Are agreed rules of behaviour clearly displayed and do they include messages about fairness and combating racism?
7. Are dictionaries readily available in English and other relevant languages?
8. Is there strong visual support for the topics being studied, including key vocabulary and concepts?
9. Are there plenty of opportunities for collaborative working where talking is central to the purpose of the lesson?
10. Is good practice disseminated?

What are the features of a supportive group?

1. Are bilingual learners – regardless of their level of English – allocated groups with children of their own academic ability?
2. Are the bilingual learners with little English included in mainstream curriculum activities with appropriate support?
3. Do group members understand what the outcomes of their collaboration should be and that their talk should be focused and productive?
4. Do the learners listen to each other and involve classmates with developing English?
5. Do the bilingual learners feel secure in the group and understand that they can make mistakes and take risks with their English without being ridiculed?
6. Do learners who share a first language feel comfortable using it during group work without this creating a barrier to other members of the group?
Appendix A
Useful websites

The Bell Foundation EAL Nexus (https://ealresources.bell-foundation.org.uk/) hosts free high quality resources and teaching materials. The resources have detailed teaching notes which advise teachers on ways they can be used to meet specific curriculum, language and literacy objectives, in line with best practice for EAL learners. The Bell Foundation’s award-winning EAL Assessment Framework for Schools and new digital EAL Assessment Tracker are available free of charge to all schools in the UK. Bell Foundation (2019) ‘EAL Assessment Framework’ Online. https://tinyurl.com/ydcv4f4w

The National Association for Language Development in the Curriculum (NALDIC), the professional association for EAL teachers in England, provides a range of advice on policy and practice at https://naldic.org.uk/. The NALDIC publications, written by and for practitioners, are an important source of professional knowledge and support. The equivalent site for Scottish teachers is found at https://www.sateal.org.uk/


Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland (CERES) website at http://www.ceres.education.ed.ac.uk/ provides useful advice on issues of social justice, rights and anti-discriminatory practice in schools. The site contains a number of research projects and publications associated with race equality, EAL and community languages.

Bilingualism Matters website https://www.bilingualism-matters.ppls.ed.ac.uk/ Bilingualism Matters is a research and information centre at the University of Edinburgh which studies bilingualism and language learning.
Appendix A
Useful websites

A New York State University funded project with partner school has a wealth of translanguageing resources for emergent bilinguals
https://www.cuny-nysieb.org

Collaborative Learning Project website contains downloadable talk for learning activities in all subject areas and good links to professional reading http://www.collaborativelearning.org/

Mantra Lingua https://uk.mantralingua.com/ is a source of dual language books and creative multimedia resources for bilingual learners. For using and researching dual language books see the work of Raymonde Sneddon at University of East London https://www.uel.ac.uk/research/dual-language-books

EIS Refugee and Migrant Welcome Packs
https://www.eis.org.uk/Policy-And-Publications/WelcomeToScotland
The ‘Welcome to School in Scotland’ packs are for newly arrived primary and secondary pupils and their families. They contain some useful school vocabulary in French, Polish and Arabic and encourage young people to let teachers know the languages they can speak.

Scottish EAL Co-ordinating Council (SEALCC)
https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/sealcc/
SEALCC is a network of professionals from all local authorities across Scotland who are involved in the management of English as an Additional Language (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)
https://www.sateal.org.uk/
SATEAL exists to foster and develop the teaching of English as an Additional Language (EAL) in a multiethnic environment.
Appendix B
Annotated bibliography

The following widely available publications are useful for further reading.

A research project highlighting the voice and perceptions of language learning experiences of EAL learners in England and Scotland.

A core reference text for those that are interested in looking more deeply into issues of bilingualism and bilingual education.

This book describes a variety of creative work by children and young people, in collaboration with classroom teachers, that reflect learners’ cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

This book includes case studies from practising teachers and covers using home languages and cultures in learning, planning across the curriculum for EAL and classroom organisation.

This practical booklet contains many useful ideas on how to create collaborative learning tasks/resources for bilingual learners at primary and secondary stages.

Another core reference text for those that are interested in looking more deeply into the theories of bilingual education and alternative views of teaching and assessment practices.
Appendix B
Annotated bibliography continued

This book provides a wealth of classroom examples based on actual practice for supporting teaching of academic literacy across the curriculum for all learners.


A very accessible guide to the assessment of bilingual learners who may have additional support needs.


This book chapter offers guidance to monolingual teachers on inclusive practices, as part of a wider social justice agenda for schools. The text is interspersed with short vignettes drawing on authentic classroom events to highlight potential challenges, followed by reflective questions to stimulate discussion.


Research exploring how learners’ first language can be supported in schools and the community.


This edited book brings together a team of language educators who explore a range of teaching approaches and practical advice for supporting learners of EAL.


Another case study based book which looks at primary children accessing the curriculum as they develop as English language learners.

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