

Nelson Academy English as an additional language - EAL

Intent Statement 2021/22

At Nelson Academy we have a growing number of children who are arriving at our school with English as an additional language or are completely new to the English language. We strive to support the children in feeling safe and supported as soon as possible in their school life. The children will be supported by staff and other children to become familiar with our daily routines and are encouraged to join in where possible. Their work is differentiated where needed, to support them and allow them to progress in their learning. Our children are extremely supportive of others with EAL and pride themselves in being helpful and supportive towards them.

Staff strive to work closely with parents and the community to ensure a smooth transition into school. By building this relationship we have a far better understanding of the children's needs and where they may need additional support. We have found families to be extremely supportive and want to work with the school to help, and give guidance, wherever possible.

Recently, Nelson Academy have started a Culture Club, run by the EAL co-ordinator, for children in years 3 and 4. The idea of this club is to learn about different countries cultures and values, sample their food and learn some of the language. We have invited staff members and parents who are from different countries to help run the club and teach their first language to the children. This has been a fantastic experience for both children and adults involved by developing a mutual respect and a more enriched experience and understanding of different countries values and beliefs.

Nelson Academy have purchased a number of bi-lingual story books and dictionaries along with talking pens that read the story in either language. These resources are designed to support all children with EAL to become more independent in learning English, however we have found that all children show a real interest in the story books and enjoy them being read in both languages.

Our children with EAL are really able to excel at Nelson Academy, the children are given the tools and confidence to make brilliant progress while they are with us and this assists them in their future education and life. They are fully involved in not only the classroom but many other areas of our school such as: school clubs, performances, choir, art awards and school council. These children are valuable to Nelson Academy; we are able to learn from them and enrich our lives through appreciating different cultures, languages and experiences of the world.