

SEND Coffee Morning EAL



What does EAL mean?

English as Additional Language

Area of need on the SEND list – EAL is not a Special Need therefore it does not fit into an area on the SEND list.

EAL is one of several acronyms used to describe the teaching of English where it is not a person's first language.

EAL learners may have varying levels of English knowledge, with some children learning from scratch and others having some pre-existing knowledge. Perhaps these learners speak another language at home, as well as some English.

If children are learning English from scratch for the first time, it can be common for them to go through a non-verbal or silent period. This is a perfectly normal response to the change and upheaval associated with learning to communicate in a new language. In the case of [International New Arrivals](#), children will also be adapting as they transition to life in a new country, which can be an additional source of stress or anxiety that may contribute to a silent period.

All children are different, so it's important to assess things on a case-by-case basis. Some children may understand more than they can say. Others may benefit from using [visual communication cards and resources](#). However they like to communicate, it's important to remember that a non-verbal period is no cause for concern, and it's still possible for children to learn a lot during that time.

If after, one or two terms of the child being at Brownlow Fold, the class teacher feels that the pupil has other areas of need and the pupil is not making the expected progress. The barrier to their progress may not be a language barrier therefore strategies will be used to see if they support the child to make more progress.

If the quality first teaching strategies do not have an impact. An initial concern form will be opened and other strategies will be implemented. After another assessment cycle, if the child is still not making sufficient progress, an Early Help will be opened.

Does anyone have any questions?



It is now time to have a chat with the other parents who are here and also a chance to speak to Miss Heyes the SENDCo.

The next SEND Coffee morning is on 8/7/25.