



EAL Policy

EMAS & City Academy Whitehawk Working in Partnership

1. Terminology

EAL – English as an Additional Language

Bilingual pupils – pupils with EAL, including more advanced learners

BME – Black and Minority Ethnic background

EMA – Ethnic Minority Achievement

EMAS – (Brighton and Hove) Ethnic Minority Achievement Service

2. The partnership with EMAS

We work in partnership with EMAS to support pupils with EAL and/or underachieving pupils from BME groups, either through direct pupil support, advisory support or staff training. We also work with EMAS to ensure we build our own capacity in school, through the school development plan.

3. Guiding principles:

Our school values the cultural and linguistic diversity of the pupils as a positive asset and a rich resource for the school and community. We acknowledge that language and culture is central to a person's identity and we build on the skills and knowledge pupils with EAL bring with them to school, providing additional support as necessary. We encourage both the pupils and families to play a full part in school life.

4. Aims of EMAS and school in partnership

- To provide a welcoming environment where EAL pupils and their families feel secure, safe, and have a sense of belonging
- To narrow achievement gaps between pupils with EAL and other pupils through specialist EMAS support and effective mainstream practice
- To build capacity within school to ensure needs of EAL pupils are met appropriately and effectively.

5. Fundamental underpinning principles of EAL support

- Bilingualism is an asset to be valued, with first language having a continuing role in both identity and learning English
- In order to close achievement gaps, EAL learners need cognitive challenge and effective linguistic and contextual support.
- English is best learnt via an inclusive curriculum where language and learning skills develop together.