



SILVERHILL SCHOOL

English as an additional language

Children with English as an additional language should be made to feel as welcome at Silverhill as an English speaking child.

They should be treated with equal rights and equal opportunities whatever colour or creed (see equal opportunities policy).

Bi-lingual children should experience the same rights.

It is seen as unlikely that there will ever be many children at Silverhill with English as a second language.

Bi-lingual families are more common.

We also have families where there is an additional language, other than English, but which is not spoken fluently except by Grandparents.

It has been proven that the best way to learn a foreign language is by 'total immersion'. During a normal school day a child will hear English spoken, see it written and attempt to write it. They will learn a lot through free play and by visiting friends after school and at weekends.

One of the main aims of a non-English speaking child attending an English school is to learn the language.

To achieve this aim we hope to create an atmosphere where pupils wish to learn, so that they come to enjoy English, because they are active participants in it. To enable each pupil to achieve his/her potential in a variety of situations, we use all available resources appropriately, to ensure the highest level of achievement for each pupil.

We aim to enable pupils to be familiar with a body of knowledge, principles and vocabulary in standard English.

By exposing pupils to a wide range of material (both literary and media) we aim to enable pupils to see English as:

- a major cultural feature;
- part of a wider body of knowledge and skills.

In teaching English we hope to enable pupils to develop a range of desirable personal qualities such as politeness, perseverance, initiative, confidence and independence.

We aim to employ teaching methods and resources that allow all pupils (irrespective of their gender, ethnic origin, academic ability, etc.) to have equal access to English and to experience success and enjoyment in their work.

Further aims:

- to value each individual and so encourage each pupil to feel the value and worth of others. In doing so, to encourage empathy, so that each pupil approaches issues of Race, Gender and Ability with tolerance and insight.
- to develop an awareness in pupils of the implications of English (past and present) for the individual and the local, national and international communities.
- to allow pupils to develop informed opinions and to be able to support them by reasonable arguments free from prejudicial intolerance.
- to foster and encourage a lasting enjoyment and appreciation of literature from a variety of cultures and traditions.
- to encourage pupils to consider critically the way language is used and abused by writers and the mass media and to develop the ability to analyse, evaluate and discriminate this use of language.

Staff should provide a variety of experiences/activities during a course of study and during a lesson if possible, e.g.

- telling stories;
- working with others, e.g. discussion in which pupils take turns to talk/listen;
- write in response to a stimulus, an article in the media;
- communicate ideas to others by means such as speaking and writing;
- listening, planning, reviewing, appraising and making notes;
- reading on their own and to others. The material (poems, stories, etc.) should consist of work written by the pupil and by others.

Lessons should be conducted in a secure, supportive and disciplined manner. The pupils and the staff should interact in a manner that demonstrates mutual respect.

Pupils are to be encouraged to share their experiences and culture with others in order to enhance the quality of learning. This will be achieved by pupils experiencing material from:

- different times and cultures;
- different writers past and present;
- stories, myths and legends;
- both literary and media sources.

Staff should attempt to show the enjoyment and benefits that language and literature have given to us. This will be done by well chosen resources and carefully phrased comment.

The staff will allow opportunities at various times for group discussion, argument and debate. At these times we can listen to each other's views and hopefully reflect upon them.