

If your questions have not been answered, please make an appointment to see Jean Kingham, Head of EAL at Jean.Kingham@thebritishschool.pl

What is EAL support?

EAL support is a support programme provided for children who are either new to English or are still developing the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in English in order to access the British National Curriculum. It is provided by a group of EAL specialists who work closely with the class teachers.

Why does my child need EAL support?

In order to fully access the British National Curriculum, your child needs to develop not just social English but the more sophisticated and specific language of the curriculum. Children who are learning English as an additional language are trying to catch up with a moving target and specialised support will help speed up this process.

How long will my child be on EAL support?

Children can take from 3 to 5 years before gaining sufficient control of English to fully access the British National Curriculum. However, we do not keep the children of the support programme until they have full mastery of this. Once the child begins to access the curriculum with confidence and ease the EAL specialist will test them in all 4 areas of language – listening, speaking, reading and writing across the curriculum. There are 6 levels of Proficiency on the EAL test and children are taken off when they are comfortably within level 5. This can take from 1 year for the younger children up to 3 years with the older and slower children. Most children will be off the programme within 2 years.

Why do I have to pay extra for my child's EAL support?

EAL children need to work in small groups with a specialist teacher in order to acquire English to the level required for easy access of the curriculum. The small group setting not only provides them with the support and opportunity they need to experiment with their growing language in a safer environment, but allows the specialist to support them with their specific learning style and personality.

When will the EAL specialist see my child?

The EAL lessons are timetabled so that children do not miss maths, and other specialist subjects. In Year 4 and above, the EAL child is also taken out of MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) lessons. Please contact your child's EAL teacher if you would like detailed information about your child's EAL lessons.

How many children will there be in the group?

The children work in groups of no more than 6 in Primary and no more than 8 in Secondary. Often the group size can be a lot smaller than this.

What will my child miss from class and how will he/she catch up?

The EAL teacher works closely with the class teacher so that the EAL lessons coincide with English, Topic or Science in Primary. The EAL teacher uses (See separate document about How we support the EAL child at TBS Warsaw) the class curriculum to plan the language lessons and so your child will not miss any crucial curriculum areas and in most cases will not need to catch up as he/she will have covered these concepts whilst learning English in the small group.

In Secondary, children are taken out of MFL and PSHE.

Can I pay more so that my child can receive 1:1 support?

If your child needs an individualised programme, the school will already have contacted you. Occasionally EAL children develop needs that cannot easily be met in the small group. If this is the case with your child and the EAL teacher has time in her/his timetable, the class teacher will contact you and you will be invited in to discuss this support. This is a part of the EAL service and does not entail a further cost.