



Training opportunities

This term we are focusing on training in schools – if you would like training please email dwinstone@solihull.gov.uk :

EAL Network meeting: Wednesday 27th March, 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Sans Souci, free to Solihull schools. £50 for out-of-borough schools. If you wish to book a place, please email inset@solihull.gov.uk

Proficiency in English codes: Following the withdrawal of this item from the census by the DfE, the EAL Service has decided to continue to collect the Proficiency in English codes from schools on a termly basis for the following reasons:

- Assessment of English proficiency empowers teachers to understand, and therefore better meet, the learning needs of their EAL learners.
- Schools in Solihull have improved greatly in identifying their EAL learners as a direct consequence of this requirement.
- These data also allow the Service to identify trends and therefore target resources, training and support more effectively.
- Collection of PiE data will also inform our risk assessments.
- We urge schools to continue to provide this very important information. Look out for further updates on how and when it will be collected. **We will not be collecting codes for children in EYFS.**

If you have questions about this, please contact Helen Rowe herowe@solihull.gov.uk or on 0121 704 8626

What is the most useful item for an EAL learner to have in school??

Bilingual dictionaries can be extremely useful for EAL learners, because using dictionaries will enhance their bilingual competency. This is an important skill that they need to develop and which requires guidance and practice. Bilingual dictionaries and translation software are essential language learning tools if used properly, it is worth devoting time and energy to ensuring that learners are supported to build up their skills. Dictionaries can also be used in some public exams.

It is important to get a dictionary at the right level for use in school. The dictionary should reflect the level that the pupil is at in their first language, so that it provides appropriate cognitive challenge and academic language. For advice please contact the service or Grant and Cutlers Booksellers <https://www.grantandcutler.com/>

EAL Ambassadors programme

We are continuing to provide EAL Ambassador training to schools. We currently have a waiting list of schools that are keen to participate in this. If you would like to add your school to the list, or would like to know more about it, please contact the programme co-ordinator Aggie Polanski agnieszka.polanski@solihull.gov.uk

REAL Learners is a company dedicated to supplying fun and effective language materials for teaching and learning English. Our website has recently been updated <http://www.realleaders.co.uk/> and offers a range of services for busy teachers and support staff, including downloadable activities and games to support children learning EAL. Our activities always come with instructions on how to get the best language development from them. If you want an induction programme to help your newly arrived pupils, our *Guided Language Activities* give you over 60, fully resourced language games and 70 literacy activities to start your pupils on the road to basic English acquisition. Please take a look. In addition, our new monthly blog is written especially with EAL practitioners in mind. Have a read and get lots of down-to-earth advice on how to help bilingual pupils in your classrooms. Finally, for news on our products downloads and the latest trends in EAL thinking, sign up for our monthly newsletter. Simply email your details to info@realleaders.couk and we will send you a copy. Alternatively, you can always contact us via our website.

Thank you from REAL Learners.

Teaching assistants training:

We have now completed our first Teaching Assistants Training Course. It was a great success and the delegates enjoyed it. Here are some of their comments:

“Bring on the New Year to take back into school all of the knowledge I have gained”

“This course will make a difference to a lot of young people’s lives.”

We will be running the course again in the summer term and are hoping to get it endorsed by the University of Wolverhampton. If you are interested please contact Di Winstone dwinstone@solihull.gov.uk or inset@solihull.gov.uk The cost is £500 for 12 weeks (2 hour sessions).



For enquiries please phone 0121 704 8613 or email ealservice@solihull.gov.uk or for courses inset@solihull.gov.uk

If you have ideas for topics you would like to be covered at the EAL Network, please contact us. We are also always happy to visit in an advisory capacity – we are sending out invitations for the next series of advisory appointments; if you wish to be included please get in touch.