



English as an Additional Language



Supporting EAL learners during school closures – guidance for schools.

Children learning English as an additional language are likely to find the closure of schools particularly disruptive. We know that, especially in the early stages of learning English, immersion in an English speaking environment is crucial. Children will not now be exposed to this daily dose of English and learning from home will be very challenging. The following advice and guidance may be helpful:

- Consider each child's situation individually e.g. their age and stage of learning English as well as parental proficiency in English and their ability to support home-learning. **Some children may be better off in school where they can be supported in learning English and will be able to better access the curriculum.**
- Children who are new to the country or who have not yet been assessed by the Service would be best assessed in school. The Service has a pack of activities and will be able to offer support for staff in conducting assessments.
- Communicate regularly with home to ensure that children are able to access the work and that they are not feeling isolated. Where necessary use Teams and an interpreter to do this – the EAL Service can support with accessing suitable interpreters.
- Continue to promote and encourage the use of home languages to support learning e.g. parents who are not proficient in English may be better off asking questions about texts in home language. Be especially careful when delivering phonics as many parents may not be familiar with this approach to reading and will not be able to support it.

- Adapt the work being sent home thinking especially about
 - Pre-learning activities (especially if children are accessing live lessons)
 - Specific vocabulary tasks e.g. translating key words etc.
 - Provide some additional suggestions for home learning which targets the language needs of each child (see guidance with recommended websites etc.)
 - Provide parents with advice leaflet “Helping your child to learn at home”

- Liaise with the EAL Service who will where possible signpost and/or provide some additional resources to support home learning.

- Many families have not been able to access public information or messages from school regarding closures, public health advice etc. Check that your families are receiving and understanding messages. There is some advice in multiple languages available on our Solgrid page <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/english-as-an-additional-language/>

- Information about coronavirus in different languages: <https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>
 UK government coronavirus information in many languages:
 English, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Czech, Dari, Estonian, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Hungarian, Kurdish Sorani, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Romanian, Sindhi, Slovak, Spanish, Somali, Tamil, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese.

- Advice and support for parents regarding use of the internet is available here <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf> and in multiple languages here <https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>