## How can you help at home?

*Speak your language with your children at home and in public.*

*Encourage them to use the home language with you.*

*Let them feel proud not embarrassed of their language and culture.*

*Encourage your children to speak their home language in school with other children and adults who share their language.*

If you have any questions about the content of this leaflet, please contact the school to make an appointment with a member of the EAL team.


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## Minority Ethnic Achievement Service

# EAL

*Helping your child to learn in English*

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## What is EAL?

EAL stands for English as an Additional Language.

If your child speaks or is exposed to another language at home, then they are learning English in addition to their home language.

## What is MEAS?

MEAS is the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service. It is a branch of the Local Education Authority in RCT.

MEAS is dedicated to raising the standards of the minority ethnic children in RCT.

MEAS employs qualified teachers and trained Assistants to support EAL children in RCT schools.

## WHAT DOES RESEARCH TELL US ABOUT CHILDREN LEARNING ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE?

Research has shown that:
It takes two to three years for the EAL learner to develop
social language used in
playground / street / classroom situations.

This is called BICS
(Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills)

It can take five to seven years or more to develop the language needed to cope with the literacy demands of the classroom.

This is called CALP

(Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency)

*Helping your child to learn in English*

Focusing on the home language is a valuable channel to support learning.

It is NOT a hindrance. Skills that are learned in one language are transferable to another language.

One key to quick success in learning a second or additional language is a good understanding of the home language.

Although some children may appear to approach learning in different ways, EAL learn English in roughly the same way regardless of their first language background.

A silent receptive period is a natural part of the process of acquiring an additional language for some learners.

EAL learners are not regarded as having special educational needs solely because the language of the home is different from the language of the school.

Please do not drop the home language in favour of English when your children start school. We can teach them English but *you* can teach them your language.

In RCT we value ALL the languages spoken by the children. We encourage ALL our EAL learners to use their home language when they want to in the classroom and playground.