

## **Who is a pupil with English as an Additional Language?**

A child with English as an additional language is one who was exposed to a language other than English during their early years, and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community.

A child who speaks EAL can range from a beginner in learning English to a very fluent speaker of English.

These pupils may also be referred to as 'bilingual'.

Many children use two or three languages, including English, at home. They may also use a different language in religious contexts.

### **Wide variety of backgrounds**

The EAL learner could be one who is:

- born in Britain but who does not start learning English until he/she starts school
- brought up as bilingual and fluent in English and the mother tongue. Some may be bi-literate
- newly arrived in this country but bi-literate with some years of learning English as a foreign language
- newly arrived, with little knowledge of English, but literate in the mother tongue
- newly arrived with no previous experience in English and/or with very basic literacy skills in the mother tongue

### **Potential challenges for new arrivals**

- Feelings of insecurity or trauma due to prior experiences.
- Isolation and lack of friends.
- Separation from one or both parents.
- Little or previous schooling due to lack of opportunities or instability in the home country.
- Different style or emphasis of education.
- Children may feel misunderstood and unvalued if they cannot see any of their culture or language in the classroom/school.
- Experiencing racism in or out of school.