

## **The Wokingham context**

New arrivals add to the rich diversity of cultures and languages in Wokingham schools. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of minority ethnic pupils and pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) in the borough. At the time of the January 2013 school census, 25.3% of children in Wokingham Primary schools were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups and 13% had EAL. These percentages are slightly below the national averages. However, in some Wokingham Primary schools, more than 25% of the pupils have EAL.

Many of these children were born in Britain and are second or third generation members of well-established communities. Some newly arrived families in Wokingham plan to make the UK their permanent home; some are here for shorter stays, while one or both parents study at the university or are employed on fixed term contracts with local companies.

The January 2013 census revealed that 103 main different languages are spoken in Wokingham schools. 70 of these languages have fewer than 10 speakers. The most commonly spoken languages in Wokingham schools after English are Urdu and Punjabi.

During the academic year 2012-13 Wokingham schools admitted 143 newly arrived pupils speaking 31 different languages. The languages most commonly spoken by new arrivals to Wokingham include: Arabic, Polish, Spanish, Urdu, Romanian, Hungarian, Portuguese and Chinese.