

Ethnic minority achievement service

Curriculum and Language Access Service

The Curriculum and Language Access Service (CLAS) is a local authority Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMA) service which works with schools to develop effective provision for minority ethnic and English as an additional language (EAL) learners.

CLAS has the following mission statement:

"The Curriculum and Language Access Service is committed to raising the achievement and expectations of minority ethnic pupils, by working in partnership to ensure equality of opportunity in Education."

The service includes:

- EMA consultants and leading teachers;
- Bilingual language assistants and support workers;
- specialist teachers of English as an additional language; and
- teachers and tutors of community languages.

CLAS is funded through the EAL element of the DSG. Our staff work with schools across the authority, as part of the wider School Improvement Service, to develop provision to promote the educational achievement of pupils with EAL, refugees, asylum seekers and ethnic minority pupils at risk of underachieving. However, all groups of children benefit from specialist EAL expertise in schools.

By working with schools, CLAS staff:

- support schools in developing effective self-evaluation processes, coordinating provision for EAL, reviewing current practice and developing teaching and learning approaches which benefit pupils from all language backgrounds;
- work in the classroom in partnership with mainstream teachers and assistants;
- work with schools to develop practitioner research in the classroom;
- support schools in developing evidence-based practice;
- provide CPD to develop effective EAL coordination and practice in schools;
- plan with school colleagues to make sure pupils have full access to the curriculum;
- help to develop a learning culture where having more than one language is valued;

- evaluate pupil progress regularly to make sure support is given effectively;
- work with schools to develop partnerships with parents by contacting parents and carers and by making home visits to discuss pupil progress and how parents can get involved;
- develop resources to use in school and at home, such as dual language signs and posters, resource packs and translated documents;
- support schools in meeting the cultural, language and religious needs of their pupils;
- support pupils taking GCSEs in community languages.

Through specific initiatives the service will:

- support schools to promote equalities and cohesion, for example, Show Racism the Red Card competition, SMSC and Equalities CPD and school-based work, Refugee Week activities;
- work with asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants to make sure they have access to services;
- provide CPD for staff in schools on promoting cultural diversity, supporting pupils with EAL and working with asylum seekers;
- co-ordinate a M.Ed. in Bilingualism in Education programme in partnership with NASSEA and the University of Birmingham to develop specialist teachers' skills in working with EAL learners;
- work with partner organisations and within CLAS to coordinate and lead developmental CPD on EAL teaching and learning for mainstream teachers and assistants.

To find out more about CLAS and download equalities information and dual language materials, go to our intranet webpage: <http://intranet/index.aspx?articleid=11158> or visit our new website which will be available in late September 2018 www.clas-eal.org.uk

Our CPD offer is on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CLASEAL/> @CLASEAL and you can follow us on Twitter @CLAS_EAL

CLAS is based at the Seedfield Site. Contact us on:

Tel: 0161 253 6422/23 clas@bury.gov.uk