



## Information for Schools Forum

### Equality Services

2017 /18

Schools Forum funding has enabled Equality Services to provide the following support to maintained schools, free of charge.

#### **1. Teaching support for EAL ‘new arrivals’**

- Initial English language assessment
- Up to 10 hours of 1:1 or small group teaching support for pupils newly arrived from abroad with little or no English from an EAL specialist teacher
- End of support progress report with advice for mainstream teachers

Financial year 2016 -2017     **20 schools and 52 pupils** benefited from this support.

Financial year 2017 – 2018   so far     15 schools and 40 pupils have or are currently benefiting from this support.

#### **2. Community Language Assistant (CLA) support**

- 10-hours of first language support to help newly arrived pupils ‘settle into’ their new school, assist with communication and help the pupil to access the curriculum (subject to language availability)

#### **3. First Language Assessments (FLAs)**

- FLA for bilingual pupils where learning difficulties are suspected. For the financial year 2016- 2017, 18 schools used this service. Equality Services sourced interpreters in 19 different languages and arranged assessments within a few weeks of the initial requests. So far in this financial year 2017 - 2018, 16 schools have requested FLAs across 17 different languages.
- FLA reports
  - i. Can help SENCOs decide if a pupil’s language difficulties require further investigation or if the pupil just needs more time and support to learn English.
  - ii. Can be used as evidence as part of an Education, Health & Care needs assessment (EHC) - sometimes FLAs are recommended by

other professionals such as Speech & Language Therapists or Educational Psychologists.

**4. Advice and guidance on issues relating to Equality, Languages and Achievement.**

Schools can access specialist advice and support via telephone and email.

**5. Free EAL Network meetings for all Reading EAL co-ordinators to share knowledge and expertise.**

- Termly meetings to update EAL co-ordinators on relevant issues including the new DfE EAL assessment codes
- Opportunities to share ideas, resources and expertise
- Increasing number of co-ordinators are attending meetings

**6. Induction support for newly enrolled Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.**

GRT children taught in schools and at home by a specialist teacher.

## **Advantages for retaining the Service:**

**1. Retain the expertise of specialist EAL teachers.** All schools will have access to this specialist knowledge and support. There is an increasing need for this due to the rising numbers of BME and EAL pupils in the Reading area.

- Expertise valued – e.g. other authorities like Wokingham have used our team to work with their schools and joint training has been delivered with the Wokingham adviser. The University of Reading and NQT training have used our team to deliver specialist EAL training and to contribute to conferences.
- Schools value this advice. Example of email from one school:

The on-going support that our school has received from Equality Services this year has continued to be effective, reliable and very much appreciated. The 10 session Beginner Support programme in particular has had an immediate and measurable impact on the well-being and the progress of the Beginners to English. We also continue to benefit from the First language Assessment service which enables us to target support and make referrals to other agencies, where necessary, more promptly and with more evidence, that might otherwise be the case.

As the EAL HLTA at our school, I regularly attend the EAL network meetings organised by Equality Services staff to share good EAL practice and to receive useful information and feedback about the latest ideas in EAL pedagogy. I have no doubt that our EAL children have a

better experience and make faster progress because of the help and advice that I receive from Equality services.

EAL HLTA

2. Retain the capacity to respond quickly to changes in demographics – for example, significant increase in needs or emerging achievement issues.
  3. Reduces the impact on small or less diverse schools. E.g. new arrivals
  4. New Arrivals – our team plus the CLAs are able to offer / support more languages than a single school can.
  5. FLAs – more economical to have a central service to organise and carry out FLAs. If schools had to pay it would currently cost £275 – £500+ per FLA depending on the language. If there was no central team of trained bilingual / EAL specialists to call upon, schools would find it hard to arrange FLAs as they would have to develop their own assessments and train staff as well as source interpreters.
- Value for money – it is more cost effective for schools to have a team of experienced, specialist staff to call upon as needed rather than each school having to provide these services in isolation.

#### **What will happen if funding is not approved?**

- Equality Services would no longer be able to provide any of the above, including new arrivals teaching & Community Language Assistant support or First Language Assessments, free of charge to schools.
- The Service would no longer be viable and would face closure.