

EAL Funding for schools

One of the most common concerns that schools have regarding teaching pupils for whom English is an Additional Language is that of funding. We all want to do the best we can for these pupils, but the additional support and resources that EAL pupils may need at various points in learning English can be expensive.

This leaflet will help you to understand the funding that your school is entitled to for pupils learning English as an Additional Language, and how to make sure you are getting all the funding available.

What funding is available for EAL pupils?

The National Funding Formula EAL 3 Year Fund is the main source of additional funding that schools have to provide additional support to pupils who have English as an Additional Language.

How much do we get from the EAL 3 Year Funding?

In the 2024/25 academic year **Primary Schools receive £590 per pupil per year** for the first three years after the pupil is issued a Unique Pupil Number (UPN), with eligibility beginning in Reception.

In the 2024/25 academic year **Secondary Schools receive £1585 per pupil per year** for the first three years after the pupil is issued a UPN.

Who qualifies for this extra funding?

The funding is assigned to schools based on the **First Language Code** used in the **October Census**. This means that many pupils miss out on the additional funding that they are entitled to, because schools record their first language as English (ENG) on the Census even though they might speak or be exposed to another language at home.

What qualifies as "EAL" for the purposes of the census?

This is a very complicated question, and in reality there is no single answer. **The Department for Education** defines EAL as "Where a pupil's first language is not English – that is: where the pupil has been exposed to a language other than English during early development and continues to be exposed to this language in the home or in the community" in their ["Complete the School Census 2024-25" Guide](#) and this is the definition we prefer.

Another definition of EAL comes from OFSTED who define EAL as follows: "English as an additional language (EAL) refers to learners whose first language is not English."

From these two definitions, we can see that EAL can broadly be taken to include:

- Pupils who were born in another country and have moved to the UK and for whom English is not their first language.
- Pupils who have lived in the UK for a large portion of their life, who may appear to be fully fluent, but for whom English is still an additional language to other languages spoken at home.
- Pupils who were born in the UK, but for whom English may not be the language they speak at home, for example a child of Romanian parents who was born in the UK but whose parents and relatives speak Romanian at home.
- Pupils who have one parent or guardian who speaks another language, and whom they sometimes communicate with in a language other than English.

When will the funding be paid?

The EAL 3 Year Funding starts to be paid to the school in the April after they were first identified on the school's October Census. Since September 2023 schools have been eligible to receive this funding in respect of their EAL pupils in Reception.

What can I spend the EAL 3 Year Funding on?

Almost anything, actually! The funding is not ring fenced, and is simply a part of your school's budget, which is why some schools don't automatically realise they are receiving it.

We recommend that schools use the money to buy additional resources, buy in additional tutor support from the Equality and Diversity Team, pay for additional staff training and pay for additional staff time that may be needed to meet the pupil's additional language learning needs, but the funding can be used in any way that the school feels is appropriate.

You also do not need to spend the additional funding on the pupil for whom the funding is received, so for example if you had three pupils receiving additional funding, and only one of them required additional support, you could spend all of the funding paying for additional support for the one pupil who needed it.

To arrange tutor support, contact the team: equalityanddiversity@lancashire.gov.uk

Can I check which pupils I receive funding for?

Yes. If you just want a quick idea of how many pupils in your school receive additional EAL 3 year funding, then you can look on the your statement (typically received in February) for your Schools Block Funding (see example above) – this will tell you how much you receive per pupil, and how many pupils you receive funding for (in April). In the example from a previous year, the school had 21 pupils receiving EAL 3 year funding at a rate of £550 per pupil for a total of £11,550 of additional funding.

IDACI_B	0.50%	1.05	475.00	499
IDACI_A	-	-	620.00	-
EAL_3	10.00%	21.00	550.00	11,550

An example of the Schools Block Funding

If you then wanted to find out which pupils in your school you receive EAL 3 funding for, you could go back to your most recent October school census, and check how many pupils had a language other than ENG under first language and have an education start date more recent than 3 years ago.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

A pupil can be a British Citizen with UK nationality, and still have English as an Additional Language.

When parents complete the admission form, if it is clear that they have put the child's first language as English despite one or both of them speaking an additional language, the child should be classed as having English as an Additional Language and you should try to make sure that the parents properly record this on your admissions paperwork.

EXAMPLES OF PUPILS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO EAL 3 YEAR FUNDING

A pupil who was born in the UK with one parent who is a native English speaker and one who speaks Polish as a first language where both Polish and English are spoken at home.

A pupil who has recently arrived in the UK who seems to speak good English, but who speaks Urdu at home.

A pupil who has arrived in the UK from another country and speaks Arabic but also speaks some English as they have previously attended an international school.

A refugee or asylum seeker pupil who has recently arrived in the UK who speaks no English and has parents who speak a bit of English.