

## Service Aims

1.To promote equality of opportunity and to fulfil the potential of pupils by valuing their bilingualism.

2.To promote the welfare of bilingual pupils within the school and the community so that they become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. (*a curriculum for excellence*)

3.To work in partnership with schools, parents/carers and other agencies to promote positive relationships.

4. To support school staff in meeting the needs of bilingual pupils.

**Bilingual Pupils' Support Service**  
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## Bilingual Pupils' Support Service

Working with bilingual pupils,  
their parents and teachers



## Guidance for Parents Secondary/Post 16



## Role of the Bilingual Pupils' Support Service

One of our main aims is to give bilingual pupils access to the curriculum so that they can continue to develop cognitively while acquiring an additional language. English is best learned through the completion of meaningful tasks related to the curriculum.

Support in developing an additional language may be provided in a number of forms.....

- \*Teaching in the home language.
- \*Involving parents
- \*Providing materials and guidance to schools.
- \*Helping school staff differentiate materials and identify targets
- \*Direct teaching
- \*Links with other agencies
- \*Teaching in partnership with school staff
- \*Collaborative learning

## Questions parents sometimes ask

**Q** Will our child learn English faster if we try to speak it at home ?

**A** No, research shows that developing the **home language** gives a good foundation for other languages to develop.

**Q.** How can we help our child at home?

**A** Use your own language. Encourage your child to use a bilingual dictionary. Emailing friends and relatives and using the internet to read the news or research a school topic in the home language will maintain and develop literacy skills.

There may be opportunities in S3 and above to take exams in the home language e.g. Higher Urdu or Mandarin.

**Q** The teacher tells us our child never speaks in class, what can we do?

**A Wait!** Children need time to listen and observe before they are ready to speak a new language. This 'silent period' is normal and can vary according to personality.

**Q** Can we get help to communicate with the school ?

**A** Yes, the BPSS employs a number of bilingual assistants to help both pupils and parents in their home language. You can also access Dundee Translation and Interpretation Service (01382 435825 )

**Q.** How can we find out about our child's progress?

**A.** There will be a parent meeting and a report every year. However, if you have any concerns you can arrange an appointment to see your child's Guidance teacher. Bilingual support staff or assistants are also available to help you understand the Scottish Education System.

**Q.** How can we help our child to settle into Secondary school?

**A.** Scottish schools may be very different from schools in your own country. On arrival your child will be allocated 'peer support'. It takes time to adapt and making new friends can be a very important factor. Encourage your child to see new friends outside school or join lunchtime or after school activities.

**Q** What is the earliest school leaving age?

**A** School is compulsory until 16 and you have completed 4 years at Secondary School

**Q** If we are new to the city can I enrol my son/daughter in school if they are over 16?

**A** Young people aged 16-18 may be offered a school place or may be advised to go to college depending on their prior educational achievement and their level of English.

**More answers can be found at [www.Itscotland.org.uk/parentzone/index.asp](http://www.Itscotland.org.uk/parentzone/index.asp)**