

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 Nursery/Primary



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. Borrow dual language books from the library and read them together. Spend time talking about school reading books in the home language as well as reading the text in English.

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

A **Wait!** Children need time to listen and watch 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 in communicating with the school ?

A Yes, the BPSS employs a number of bilingual assistants to help both pupils and parents using 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 School staff are there to help you and your child. Parent Contact Evenings, open days and yearly reports will provide information. Bilingual Assistants using your home language will help you to understand.

Q How can we help our child to make friends?

A Friends are very important, most of the English your child learns will be from other children. Your child's teacher will allocate 'buddies' in the first instance. Encouraging friendship outside school can be done through links with other parents in your child's class.

Q When can my child start nursery?

A Part-time places at nursery are available from age three.

Q Is my child ready for school?

A We strongly advise that children who will not be five until January or February stay in nursery for another year. Children who will be five between September and December may also benefit from another year in nursery.

More answers can be found at www.Itscotland.org.uk/parentzone/index.asp