

# Welcome to the EAL Department

(English as an Additional Language)

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Over 50% of our students at Oxford Spires Academy are bilingual. Around 40 languages are spoken in our school. Our academy has a dedicated EAL Department to ensure our EAL learners are well supported to make fast progress. We have a number of programmes in place to help our learners achieve their best. We know this work is effective because our EAL students at OSA do much better in exams than EAL students nationally.



## What we can do for your child

- Set up **co-teaching projects** with the mainstream teachers to plan and deliver lessons that are well matched to the EAL learners' individual profiles
- Design and deliver **bespoke language intervention classes** tailored to your child's individual learning needs and language problem areas
- Organise **individual in-class support** for your child
- Work out **personalised learning strategies** for your child
- Offer an **intensive beginners' language course**
- Help new arrivals to successfully **integrate** into the school
- **Advise** on EAL resources for your child to use at home
- **Monitor** your child's level of progress in all four skills — listening, speaking, reading and writing
- **Keep you informed** about your child's progress



## How you can help your child learn English

It can be quite challenging for many students to find themselves in an English speaking school, especially if they don't speak the language very well. At Oxford Spires Academy we work very hard to help your child adapt to the new situation. Here are some things you can do at home to support them with the transition, and then during the year.

- ◆ Make sure your child has a **bilingual dictionary** to use both at home and at school.
- ◆ **Encourage them** to attend EAL homework club.
- ◆ Encourage them to **read widely in both languages**.
- ◆ It is very important that they maintain high command of their mother tongue as this helps with academic skills.
- ◆ Ask them to **read** in their mother tongue **about a subject they are studying**, and to keep a **vocabulary log**.
- ◆ The new situation is even more difficult for students who were successful back in their countries. Let your child know **you are aware of the challenges** of learning the curriculum through a foreign language. Don't expect too much too soon.