

# Speech and Language Message of the Week

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ealing is the 3rd most ethnically diverse local population in the whole of the UK.  
61% of children attending Ealing borough schools do not speak English as their first language.

(Equalities in Ealing - Summary Needs Assessment, 2017)

Children learning English as an additional language (EAL) can take up to 7 years to be academically proficient in English. They may be fluent in conversation much sooner than this.

Being multilingual can benefit children's overall academic and intellectual progress.



Use circle time or the register as a chance for children to demonstrate how to say 'hello' in their home language

Ask each child to make an 'All about Me' poster (template provided)

Ask children to teach their class (including the adults!) a conversational phrase from their home language - e.g. 'How are you?' 'I'm OK thanks.'

Advise parents to speak the language(s) they feel most comfortable using with their child.  
It is the quality of parent – child communication that matters most.

Please put up the 'Keep Your Language Alive' poster where parents/carers can see it in school.

Make a wall display of all the languages spoken by your class

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• Talk to your child in your strongest language(s). This will provide a solid foundation upon which additional languages can be learnt.

• Learning more than one language is good for general learning.

• Enjoy your language(s). It is important for social and cognitive literacy.

• Encourage your child to use both languages in all situations.

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Additional advice regarding this poster found on our website

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