

## One Minute Guide EAL Portsmouth (Portsmouth's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service EMAS)

'EAL Portsmouth' (Portsmouth's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service) are a team of highly experienced and well-respected Advisers, Bilingual Learning Assistants and support staff.

We sit within Education Improvement, under the auspices of PCC, and are a fully-traded service. We work with Early Years settings and schools in Portsmouth and beyond, across all Key Stages, to support pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) to make outstanding progress.

### Why is it important?

Almost 18% of pupils in Portsmouth schools have a first language other than English and there are currently 121 languages spoken in our schools. 27.5% of pupils are BME (black or minority ethnic).

Many of these EAL pupils are new to English and will need focused support to help them reach their full potential, both through the use and support of first language and through ongoing EAL pedagogy during their entire school career.

### How do we do it?

We offer:

- Adviser support for working with pupils who are Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) or who have English as an additional language (EAL), through central training, in-house CPD or bespoke school improvement work. We train over 500 delegates each year. Advisers also assess individual pupils to identify if an issue with progress is SEN or EAL;
- Bilingual Learning Assistants (BLAs) to support pupils with EAL in their first language in class and develop home school links, available in the most common community languages spoken in the city. We support around 520 pupils each week. BLAs also support schools with SATs and community language GCSEs;
- Resources and guidance materials for schools, both electronic and hands-on, which are the subject of continual development;
- Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and young people when they first arrive in the UK

All of the work of the service is research-based, founded on best practice models and supports raising the attainment of BME and EAL pupils, as well as that of other vulnerable or potentially vulnerable pupils, including White British under-achievers. We are also very active in the national arena, including through our professional association, NALDIC.

EMAS is funded by Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the vast majority of Portsmouth schools but can also be commissioned for ad-hoc work, subject to capacity.

### For more information:

Contact the Manager and Lead Adviser, Karen Thomas, on:  
[karen.thomas.emas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.thomas.emas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Or look at our online presence for further details:

<https://eal.portsmouth.gov.uk/>