

Schools Funding Forum 17th September 2020

English as an Additional Language - Proposal to maintain a central EAL team

To retain a central EAL Team to maintain the high levels of support and response to Havering's maintained primary schools, it is proposed that £38 per EAL pupil be de-delegated in the financial year 2021-22. This would provide funding of £95,000 towards the costs of the team which would otherwise be put at risk should an insufficient number of schools decide not to buy into the service. The level of funding requested for the period 2021-22 is equivalent to the request for the period 2020-21, despite the increase in numbers of pupils with EAL.

Through the national funding formula, primary schools receive £595.51 per EAL3 pupil so would retain more than 93% of their funding to provide support to their EAL pupils.

Rationale for maintaining a central team with EAL expertise in Havering

- Havering's demographic is continuing to change. Over the last 3 years, the EAL population in Havering primary schools has risen from 20.0% to 23.8% with increasing numbers of children entering mid-phase with little or no English.
- The need for a service can be evidenced by how well it is used by schools. From April to March 2019-2020, 39 LA-maintained primaries accessed the service for consultancy support and/or CPD. In addition, the team has maintained repeat buy-in from academies with 20 (13 primary and 7 secondary) buying into the service through the year.
- Unlike other service areas which generate a more consistent level of need, EAL needs fluctuate across schools making it more difficult for the EAL team to project a guaranteed income to fund salaries. Without collective buy-in from schools, EAL support could cease to exist within Havering and schools would have to source support from elsewhere.
- The central team plays a crucial role in managing school-to-school support networks and ensuring the sharing of best practice, both within and beyond Havering.
- The team also carries out important back office work, liaising with a range of LA services to ensure effective transitions, to facilitate SEND diagnoses and to safeguard children with EAL.
- Liaison with a number of commercial providers ensures that the EAL team is able to negotiate resources at a reduced rate for schools.

The offer for LA-maintained primaries:

- Termly consultancy visits (more available on request, depending on the needs of individual schools – may be virtual or face-to-face)
- Full-day EAL reviews, on request
- Twice-termly networks for EAL co-ordinators and EAL TAs (may be virtual or face-to-face)
- An annual cross-borough EAL network event with Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge
- Unlimited access to centrally-held EAL CPD (may be virtual or face-to-face)
- Telephone, email support and resources

Impact of the EAL team:

The targeted work of the EAL team with EAL co-ordinators, class teachers and TAs helps schools tailor their provision to ensure EAL learners make rapid progress. As a result, pupils that start with limited English across all phases make accelerated progress in order to reach ARE or close the gap towards this. Many EAL learners are likely to have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 crisis due to lack of access to models of spoken English during lockdown; central EAL funding will ensure ongoing support continues into the next financial year to help close these gaps.