

Strategies to create a Welcoming and Secure Environment for New to English Pupils

Remember – Good practice for pupils with English as an additional language is good practice for ALL.

- Learn key phrases in child's language and teach greeting to class. (Parents or family friends may be able to help with this.)
- Place pupil in correct age group where appropriate.
- Place with other bilingual pupils if possible. (Just for short time as research shows that generally immersion in language improves pupil acquisition of English at faster rate)
- Prepare class by telling them of background and language of new pupil.
- Display different languages and cultures, e.g. dual language texts.
- Use a buddy to look after pupil and show class and school routines.
- Speak instructions slowly and clearly. Avoid shouting.
- Group pupils with those who will provide good linguistic models.
- Give pupil time to answer questions.
- Provide labels of school equipment. (Use pictures/first language as appropriate.)
- Provide bilingual and picture dictionaries.
- Be tolerant of pupil's behaviour, reflect on how the N2E pupil might be feeling.
- Avoid stereotyping.
- Praise achievement.
- Welcome pupil's responses sensitively.
- Practical activities will allow newly arrived pupil to participate without the pressure to speak.
- Be aware that newly arrived pupil may have a silent period for a while.
- Allow pupil to use first language and to teach the class some words and phrases in their first language (allowing the newly arrived pupil to be the

expert occasionally and giving the rest of the class a taste of how frustrating it is not to understand everything straight away)