**How to help English language learners (ELLs) in your classroom**

**Creating a supportive classroom environment**

Talk to the new ELLs individually – make sure you can say their name correctly.

Break down timetables into a personalised diary for each ELL (detailing subjects, rooms, teachers). This gives them predictability in an unfamiliar environment.

Encourage the new ELLs to join in with practical activities that involve talking with other students, such as distributing worksheets or equipment.

Understand that the students need to speak in their first language. It can help them participate in learning activities (using dictionaries or with translation by other students) and assist their comprehension.

Train students and use buddy and peer tutoring programmes to provide in-class support.

Provide English, bilingual and subject dictionaries.

Encourage/facilitate the use of online resources for first language support.

Give the ELLs specific tasks with clear written and oral instructions. Provide visual supports such as diagrams, flashcards and illustrated glossaries.

Build on rote-learning skills if an ELL is strong in this area. Some ELLs will have studied in education systems where rote-learning is particularly valued.

Provide models and examples of learning activities so ELLs understand your expectations and the required outcomes of the tasks.

Directly teach learning skills that are unfamiliar, like independent research skills. Teach students how to use the library and have plenty of reference material readily available.

Allow new ELLs, in the early phases of development, to copy relevant texts. This enables them to participate and gives a sense of achievement. It also provides models for further study and practise in handwriting and presentation skills.

**Helping ELLs increase their achievement in subject areas**

Have word lists and topic-related sentences for preview, revision, copying and reading.

Provide vocabulary, sentence and computation cards for self-directed revision.

Teach them, step-by-step, how to write essays and assignments in the various genres and presentation formats appropriate for the topic.

Relate their homework to learning that they have previously covered and understood well. Give specific written instructions.

Ensure that there are set times with specific objectives for revision, practice, relearning, reworking and consolidation of subject knowledge.

Scaffold their new learning and help them to take small steps. Be clear about links to previous learning.

Give them time. Set the ELLs attainable, short-term, individual goals. Break longer or more complex tasks up into smaller achievable units.

Use online and audio/visual material whenever possible so the students can listen and read at their own pace.

Make the first moves towards students if they seem to be having difficulty with your subject. They may not realise they can ask for extra help.