



C-19 safety in schools and EY settings

Safety is our top priority at this time. Our EAL support team is equipped with hygiene packs and our clear risk assessments are updated monthly, or more often when needed. Our support workers are aware of the regulations for schools and early years settings, and work to your standards.

We have some capacity for new bookings at specific times. This service is for Polish-speaking children, and is fully funded for EY settings and chargeable for schools. If you've not used this service before, you may find the Q and A on page 2 helpful.

To book in-class or distance support for Polish-speaking children, or for help communicating with parents, email linkworker@diversityvoice.org.uk

Classroom Support Workers

We couldn't be prouder of our classroom support team, who have continued to work throughout these difficult times to support children and parents with Polish as a home language. Our team adheres to the different COVID-19 safety requirements in each school and early years setting.

All are fluent in Polish and English, have completed safeguarding and PREVENT Duty training, and take part in regular CPD workshops and courses.

Between them, our EAL team bring almost 40 years' experience to the role. The team works together to share their experience and skills, which include Makaton, working with children with special needs and language teaching. Their work is supported by other staff who specialise in allied fields including applied linguistics and language testing.

You can find our team profiles on our website. [>>](#)


Children need EUSS status too

By June 30 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens resident in the UK before December 31 2020 must have gained Settled or Pre-Settled Status from the EU Settlement Scheme to remain in the UK. Only 45% of eligible children have had applications made for them.

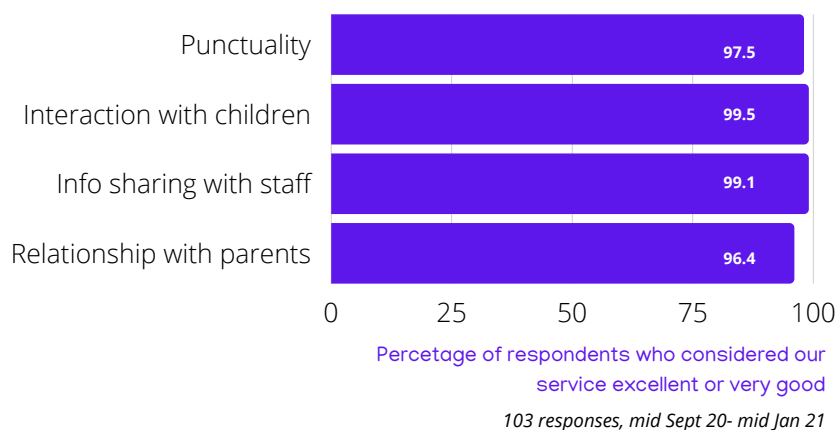
Those without Status will be unable to access services in the UK, and you may find children in your education setting without Status. Although there is likely to be leniency shown for these children, we strongly recommend that parents apply as soon as possible for the whole family. We are now in a 6-month grace period, which will not be extended.

Our OISC-registered advisers are working with the Home Office to offer free support to applicants and the service is active throughout the lockdown period.

Parents should contact us directly, (in any language) at euss@diversityvoice.org.uk 0300 075 0105.

 Almost all our services are operational during lockdown

Feedback: quarter to mid-January



EAL Support Q&A

Q. Who is the EAL support service for?

A. We have a service contract with Somerset County Council to provide support for Polish children in schools and EY settings.

Q. Is it free?

A. We invoice Somerset Council directly for support in EY settings. Because of a budget re-allocation, schools must pay us directly. The cost per hour is £38, inclusive.

Q. What can you do at this time?

Provide feedback on a child's current abilities in Polish and English. Provide in-class help to enable children to participate and develop their language skills; most settings ask us to come for 2.5-3.5 hours once a week. Provide translation and interpreting, for example for parents evenings. Provide online lessons. and homework support.

Q. Can I book an assessment only?

Yes. Our senior worker brings experience as a chartered teacher in Poland, specialising in English language teaching. She is happy to drop in to provide feedback.

Q. Can you help to communications with parents?

A. We liaise with parents of children we currently support, and facilitate liaison between schools & EY settings and parents through our interpreting service. Through our wider charitable work, speakers of any language can contact us directly for free help on a wide range of issues, including help to understand the education system. We partner with statutory and voluntary sector organisations to facilitate access to services too.

Online Support

We took our support online and worked with a small group of primary school-aged children, including some with needs in addition to language support.

We noted that children with autism made particular progress, and enjoyed the quiet 1:1 environment of online learning.

This service is no longer funded, but we happy to continue to work with schools who are able to self-fund.

Kind words

"This was the best experience. He love so much. The teacher of his school said to me that he is like different child. BIG Thank You for what you done for us.". (KC).

"I just want to say big thank you for a second lesson per week with our great teacher. My son very happy and always wait a new lessons". (KK)

"I would like to thank for my children's online lessons. I believe that now will be easier for them to start learning at the school. I hope that our cooperation will continue in the next academic year". (ES)