



Professional learning that strengthens EAL and multilingual provision

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Professional learning that strengthens EAL and multilingual provision

Research-informed. Specialist-led. Effective virtually and in person.

Effective EAL and multilingual provision requires more than individual strategies or resources. Schools need a shared understanding of learners' needs, confident staff, consistent approaches and a clear process for assessing and improving provision.

Across Cultures provides interactive professional learning that connects research and specialist expertise with practical classroom application. Staff are supported to understand current provision, strengthen their knowledge, apply new approaches and monitor their impact over time.

Effective professional learning—virtually or in person

Our professional learning can be delivered virtually, in person or through a blended approach, depending on the needs and location of the school.

Whichever format is chosen, sessions remain specialist-led, interactive and practical. Participants work collaboratively, apply their learning to realistic examples and identify actions relevant to their learners and setting.



Virtual delivery

- Makes specialist professional learning accessible across locations
- Enables colleagues from different schools and countries to learn together
- Includes practical activities, modelling, discussion and breakout groups
- Reduces travel time, cost and environmental impact



In-person delivery

- Supports sustained whole-team discussion and collaboration
- Provides opportunities for practical application and immediate feedback
- Can be tailored closely to the school's context and priorities
- Helps develop shared approaches across staff teams

What participants gain

Our professional learning helps staff to:

Develop a shared understanding of EAL and multilingual learners

Assess learners' language, literacy and wider educational needs

Plan structured and scaffolded language and literacy support

Differentiate teaching and improve curriculum access

Use learners' home languages as a resource for learning

Apply practical strategies in classrooms and interventions

Identify priorities and agree actions for improvement

Build consistent and sustainable whole-school provision

Evidence that virtual professional learning works

Across three virtual programmes delivered in February and March 2021:



100%

agreed that the course met their expectations



95%

rated their overall learning experience 8, 9 or 10 out of 10



13 countries

were represented, bringing together educators working in different contexts and education systems

"Really well organised for online delivery in this time. Thank you!"

Maisie Brown, St Joseph's and St Gregory's Primary School, UK

These findings are based on participant evaluations from three virtual professional-learning programmes delivered in February and March 2021.

From professional learning to sustained practice

Our programmes are designed to support implementation, not simply deliver information.

A structured approach



Understand

Explore learners' needs, staff starting points and current provision.



Develop

Build specialist knowledge, professional confidence and practical skills.



Apply

Use new learning to strengthen assessment, planning, teaching and support.



Review

Consider implementation, examine evidence and agree priorities and next steps.

Professionally supported beyond the workshop

Depending on the programme, participating staff may receive:

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|---|--|
| ✓ Specialist-led, interactive workshops | ✓ Pre- and post-session assessments or reflections |
| ✓ Practical modelling and opportunities to apply new learning | ✓ Action-planning tools |
| ✓ Access to a dedicated Professional Development Portal | ✓ Opportunities to learn with colleagues from different roles and settings |
| ✓ Preparation, reflection and supporting resources | ✓ Follow-up reviews to consider implementation, evidence and next steps |

This combination helps schools translate professional learning into day-to-day practice and sustain improvements over time.

Connecting professional learning with Learning Village

Where schools also use Learning Village, professional learning can be connected directly to implementation.

Staff can explore how assessment evidence informs learner starting points and next steps, then use Learning Village's structured, image-based language and literacy pathways to support independent learning, targeted teaching and curriculum access.

Learning Village is accessible to learners from any language background and at any literacy level. Its results, assessments and review processes help schools monitor learner progress, adapt provision and demonstrate impact.

"The whole course is the most thorough and up-to-date EAL course I have ever attended. You covered every single aspect of EAL with a perspective that also supports whole-school literacy."

Valentina Spyropoulou, Optimist International School, Netherlands

"A whole-school approach to a new way of looking at EAL is under way and in development, thanks to this course."

Kirk Shuttleworth, Optimist International School, Netherlands

"Fantastic to have the breakout rooms to chat in smaller groups and to have new things modelled."

Aisling Gammon, St John Rigby Primary, UK

"I found it really helpful to see how we can use the children's home language to support the development of their second language. I also liked all the practical strategies that I can take straight back to school."

Maisie Brown, St Joseph's and St Gregory's Primary School, UK

Professional learning for your setting

Across Cultures offers:

- Learning Village programme launch and implementation support
- progress and implementation reviews
- best-practice and refresher training
- the EAL and Multilingualism Framework
- tailored professional learning for individual schools and groups of schools

Our aim is to help schools build the knowledge, confidence and practical systems needed to improve language, literacy, inclusion and curriculum access for EAL and multilingual learners.

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