



Dolce Casa Montessori

English as an Additional Language

At Dolce Casa Montessori, we are committed to providing inclusive care and education so that all children, including those with English as an Additional Language (EAL), feel welcomed, valued and supported to reach their full potential.

We recognise that children learn language best through secure relationships, play, repetition and meaningful interaction, and that home languages are a vital part of each child's identity and development.

Our Approach

We support children with EAL by:

- Creating a warm, welcoming environment where children and families feel safe and included
- Working in partnership with parents/carers during settling-in to understand the child's home language, routines and key words
- Sharing important words and phrases from the child's home language with relevant staff
- Valuing and respecting each child's language, culture and background
- Using visual supports, gestures, repetition and modelling to support communication
- Understanding that bilingual children may go through a silent or observational phase, which is a normal part of language development
- Encouraging parents/carers to share stories, songs or key words from home where appropriate
- Using dual-language books, music and resources when available
- Celebrating different cultures and languages within daily practice

Supporting Progress

- Children with EAL are supported through everyday interactions and play
- Practitioners observe children's communication and understanding as part of normal EYFS practice

Last Review: January 2026

- Where a child is not making expected progress over time, we will consider whether further support is needed and refer to our SEND Policy where appropriate
- We may seek advice from relevant professionals with parental consent if needed

Communication with Families

- We maintain open and respectful communication with families
- Where helpful, technology may be used to support communication and understanding
- Information is shared in a clear, accessible and sensitive way

Staff Responsibilities

- All staff are expected to be aware of which children have EAL and to support them sensitively
- Training opportunities are considered where needed to strengthen inclusive practice