

Dear Parents and Carers,

An external validation visit was undertaken of the EAL Service on the 20th May 2024 as part of a programme of external validation of schools and services commissioned by The Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC). The aim of the external validation visit was to promote continuous improvement and to deliver consistency, share best practice and deliver positive outcomes for children and young people. The visit was undertaken by two external, independent external validators from Tribal Education.

External Validators looked at a wide range of evidence presented by service leaders, including the self-evaluation, and sampled the work of EAL staff during the visit. These activities were focused on key areas based on the self-evaluation of the service, and included visits to a cross-section of schools, meetings with staff and learners, gathering the views of parents and scrutiny of documentation.

During the visit, external validators considered key areas of focus which were explored in collaboration with service leaders to validate leaders' own evaluations and to review the judgements across all areas of self-evaluation.

The focus for this external validation visit was The Quality of Education, and Leadership and Development.

The EAL service staff in schools are knowledgeable and competent professionals who deliver targeted support for EAL learners across the Island. In the schools where the EAL service staff are currently working, EAL staff have developed a personalised approach, which not only recognises the importance of developing a language-rich environment for EAL learners to succeed, but also recognises the wellbeing and personal development of EAL learners.

Staff dedicated to EAL learners within schools work closely with school staff, learners, parents and carers to assess English language competencies, provide pastoral and emotional support and suggest resources and strategies to support access to learning across the curriculum.

Parents and carers who contributed to the external validation process were united in their views on the value that EAL service staff have brought to both their children and the wider family throughout the education journey.

EAL service leaders are aware of the need to develop a strategic offer for the EAL service, which is underpinned by an ambitious vision for a universal EAL offer across the Isle of Man.

EAL service leaders recognise that there is the need for them to work in partnership with all schools to ensure a universal offer, where EAL provision is an integrated part of the daily life of an EAL learner within school. The EAL service understands the need to upskill, support and assist schools in being able to successfully meet the needs of their EAL learners, through the offer of specialist knowledge and up-to-date advice and training based on needs.

Leaders have reflected on the strategic service offer; they understand the importance of using robust self-evaluation to develop a future-ready strategy and are reviewing the next stage of development for the continued benefit of your children.

The areas of growth identified above, as part of the external validation visit, are being reviewed by the EAL service as part of a focus on improvement and future priorities.

Kind regards

Nicola Morris

Lead Validator

External Validation Team