

Supporting bilingual pupils

The national occupational standards for supporting teaching and learning in schools (STL NOS) include a range of standards applicable to learning support staff who provide support for bilingual pupils.

Learning support for bilingual pupils may involve support staff in:

- working with the teacher during whole-class teaching to support modelling, demonstration and strategies for engaging pupils in dialogue and discussion
- observing bilingual pupils to monitor the impact of different teaching strategies, learning contexts, pupil groupings etc
- providing focused support for a group of pupils to help them access a lesson
- providing one-to-one support for pupils before or during the main lesson
- adapting or developing specific resources to support the learning or curriculum access needs of bilingual pupils, and
- monitoring the progress of bilingual pupils.

The core STL units would be applicable to bilingual support assistants. Contributing to the pastoral care of pupils new to English may also be part of the bilingual support assistant role.

Specialist bilingual assistants may also be able to support mother-tongue assessments and help schools to liaise with bilingual families. In schools with large numbers of new arrivals the induction mentor role may be carried out by a specialist bilingual assistant.

Further information about the core STL units, pastoral care and induction mentors is available on the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website.

The following STL units may be applicable to learning support staff who support bilingual pupils or English as an additional language (EAL). The units can be accessed from www.tda.gov.uk/stlnosunits.

STL unit	Who is this unit for?
STL11 Contribute to supporting bilingual/ multilingual pupils	This unit is for those who work under the direct supervision of the teacher to support bilingual pupils.
STL35 Support bilingual/multilingual pupils	This unit is for those who work under the direction of the teacher to support bilingual pupils. The bilingual support assistant may or may not use the pupils' first language.
STL36 Provide bilingual/multilingual support for teaching and learning	This unit is for those who use the pupil's first language to provide support for bilingual pupils and families as directed by the teacher and/or school.

STL unit	Who is this unit for?
STL9 Observe and report on pupil performance	This unit would be relevant to those who contribute to the assessment of bilingual pupils.
STL23 Plan, deliver and evaluate teaching and learning activities under the direction of a teacher	This unit would be relevant to those who plan, deliver and evaluate teaching and learning activities for individual or groups of bilingual pupils under the direction of the teacher.
STL28 Support teaching and learning in a curriculum area	This unit would be relevant to those who work within a subject or curriculum area to support bilingual pupils.
STL29 Observe and promote pupil performance and development	This unit would be relevant to those who contribute to promoting the development of English as an additional language (EAL) under the direction of a teacher.
STL52 Support children and families through home visiting	This unit would be relevant to those who visit bilingual families in their homes to support them and their children.