



Information on ascription and first language for families new to the education system in England



This leaflet is for parents. It explains why schools ask parents to identify an ethnic code for their child (ascription) and why they ask for information about a child's first language.

Schools usually ask for this information at admission (when the child first starts school). The information you give to your child's school should only be used to help teachers give the best support possible to your child.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of your child's education, you can contact EMTAS by phone (03707 794222) or email EMTAS@hants.gov.uk.

Ascription

In UK schools, information about pupils' ethnic backgrounds is collected and used to monitor progress and attainment. It is a statutory requirement that all schools collect this information for every child. This means schools have to collect ethnicity data by law.

When your child first joins a UK school, you will be asked to ascribe to the ethnic group you feel best represents your family's background. Children who are in secondary school (11-16 years old) can do this for themselves, though we recommend they do so with the support of their families.



Ethnic origin

| A) White | B) Mixed | C) Asian or Asian British |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| British <input type="checkbox"/> | White & black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> | Indian <input type="checkbox"/> |
| English <input type="checkbox"/> | White & black African <input type="checkbox"/> | Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Irish <input type="checkbox"/> | White & Asian <input type="checkbox"/> | Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scottish <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other mixed <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Asian <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Other white <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| D) Black or Black British | E) Chinese / other ethnic group | |
| Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> | Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> | Please state: <input type="text"/> |
| African <input type="checkbox"/> | Traveller <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other black <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other <input type="checkbox"/> | |

You have the right to decide whether or not to give this information to the school; the school cannot make the choice for you without your consent. It is recommended that you **do** provide the information however, as it is used to monitor the progress and achievement of different groups of pupils to make sure none is disadvantaged.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Many families in Hampshire do not speak English as a first or home language. It is important to tell your child’s school if this is the case for your family. This will help your child’s school understand how best to support you and your child.

Schools use information about children’s first/other languages to monitor progress and achievement and to make sure no child is disadvantaged just because English is not their first language.

First language

This is the language a child was first exposed to from birth. Some children will have been exposed to more than one language and it may be difficult to identify which is their first. If this is the case for your child, make sure you tell the school about all the languages to which your child has been exposed.

Home language

This is a language that is spoken in the home of a child. The child does not necessarily have to speak or understand a home language. Whilst first and home language are often the same, for some children their first language is different from their home language.

Parents/carers of children in primary school should determine the home language. Children aged 11 or over can determine their first language for themselves, though we recommend this is done with the support of parents/carers.



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