**Information on buddies for EAL pupils**

*“The initial worry of most pupils about a new school is making friends. Having a person chosen for you, who will stay with you and help you find your way around as well as help you to meet and make other friends is very important.”*

Dfes ‘Managing Pupil Mobility’

**When choosing buddies for EAL pupils, please bear in mind the following:**

* Try to choose two buddies:
  + An academic buddy (to sit with in lessons)
  + A social buddy for breaks and lunchtimes
* Pupils should be of a similar age and be able to model good language and behaviour.
* Training for a group of pupils volunteering to be buddies should be provided each year.
* Ensure that there is a set procedure for welcoming new pupils into the school and that this is in line with the school buddy system.
* It may be necessary to provide ongoing training as a result of feedback from buddies.
* Ensure that the buddies chose are reliable, friendly and willing to befriend a pupil with EAL.
* “It can be helpful if a ‘buddy’ is someone who speaks the same language as a new arrival, but it is also important that a ‘buddy’ is someone who can confidently include new pupils in classroom activitiy and social networks.” Naldic
* A buddy does not have to be a long-term friend, but needs to ensure that he/she introduces the pupil to friendship groups.
* Use role play to help the buddy to understand situations that they may encounter.
* Buddies will need supervision and a set time per week or per month to come and talk to a responsible adult.
* Use an appropriate reward system in line with school policy to reward pupils for being buddies eg merits, certificates, mentions in assembly etc.