

Who are EMAS?

'EAL Portsmouth' (Portsmouth's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service or EMAS) are a team of highly experienced and well-respected Advisers, Bilingual Learning Assistants and support staff.

We sit within Education Improvement, under the auspices of PCC, and are a fully-traded service. We work with Early Years settings, schools and colleges in Portsmouth and beyond, across all Key Stages, to support pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) to make outstanding progress.

In general, we offer schools:

- Adviser support for working with pupils who are Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) or who have English as an additional language (EAL), through central training, in-house CPD or bespoke school improvement work. We train over 500 delegates each year. Advisers also assess individual pupils to identify if an issue with progress is SEN or EAL.
- Bilingual Learning Assistants (BLAs) to support pupils with EAL in their first language in class and develop home school links, available in the most common community languages spoken in the city. We support around 500 pupils each week. BLAs also support schools with SATs and community language GCSEs.
- Resources and guidance materials for schools, both electronic and physical, which are the subject of continual development
- Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and young people when they first arrive in the UK, building on a pilot project carried out for the DfE. We work closely with colleagues in the Virtual School and Children's Social Care

All of the work of the service is research-based, founded on best practice models and supports raising the attainment of BME and EAL pupils, as well as that of other vulnerable or potentially vulnerable pupils. We are also very active in the national arena, including through our professional association, NALDIC.

EMAS is largely funded by Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the vast majority of Portsmouth schools and others outside of the city, but can also be commissioned for ad-hoc work, subject to capacity.



A message from Karen Thomas, EMAS' Manager and Lead Adviser.

Dear Co-ordinators,

I hope you find this booklet (also unofficially known as the Co-ordinator's 'Bible'!) useful. Whether you are new in the role or have been doing it for more years than you care to remember, the information here will help you access support from the EMAS team and make the most of what is on offer to you - and, importantly, that you have paid for.

Remember that we are always around to help with any issue, large or small.

We look forward to working with you once again this year.

Karen

Getting in touch with us:

For bilingual support, your first port of call is usually Ruth

ruth.nabholz-duncan@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

For resources, it's Jordane:

jordane.faye@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

For training, assessments, school improvement-style work and any other queries, then it's me, Karen:

karen.thomas.emas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If you'd prefer to call, or to access a BLA in an emergency, call Rubi on

023 92733130

To book on courses, please go to the Portsmouth Traded Services [website](#) or contact Rubi on rubi.giles@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Every Wednesday of term time (when there is not a training webinar), there will be someone available to talk to you about any query, question or request at the weekly Co-ordinator drop-ins between 3:30 and 4:30 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Getting to know the EMAS central office team...

The Manager and Lead Adviser: Karen Thomas



Karen has worked for EMAS since 2006 and has been the team's Manager and Lead Adviser since 2015. An English Language and Literature graduate, she has taught in both junior and secondary schools in Portsmouth since completing her PGCE. She also has a TEFL background, having taught English in Greece and the UK for several years.

Karen has a Masters in Education from Sussex University, with a particular focus on Assessment for Learning and EAL, as well as a Postgraduate Certificate in Practice and Pedagogy specifically concerning the teaching of English as an additional language (TEAL).

Karen is an active member of the EAL national association, NALDIC, and runs a Regional Interest Group for them. She lectures on ITT courses throughout the area and regularly presents at conferences (national and local) as well as continuing to work with children and young people. She manages the 'Starting Out' provision for UAMs in the city and is also currently employed as an EAL Expert for the DfE.

karen.thomas.emas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Friday

The Advisers: Rebecca Reeve and Marie Allen



Becca studied English at Leeds University and then spent some years working abroad, first with people with a learning disability and then teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL), with a Cambridge qualification. She moved to Portsmouth in 1997 and continued to teach English as a Foreign Language here before doing a PGCE at Chichester University.

Becca's teaching career has spanned over 3 decades and although she specialised in Key Stage 2, has included work in all 4 Key Stages as well as Early Years. Her work in secondary schools was as a teacher of EFL and as an EMA coordinator. Involved with the City of Sanctuary work in the city, she continues to support UAMs in the city. She has worked for EMAS since 2017 and is also currently employed as an EAL Expert for the DfE

rebecca.reeve@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Tuesday - Thursday



Marie gained an honours degree from The College of St. Mark and St. John in Plymouth and then trained as a secondary school teacher at Chichester University.

For seven years, Marie worked as a Primary school teacher in a school with a high proportion of children with EAL. She has been a Lead Practitioner and

Specialist Leader in Education and has experience of working in schools both in the city and in Hampshire.

Marie regularly delivers training for trainee teachers and existing teachers as well as presenting at local and national conferences.

Marie joined the EMAS team in 2021 and is also currently employed as an EAL Expert for the DfE

marie.allen@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Friday

The BLA Manager: Ruth Nabholz Duncan



Ruth is originally from Switzerland and is a native Swiss-German and German speaker, who has lived in Portsmouth since 1995. She studied Economics and Politics and has a Masters from the University of Bern and has worked as a lecturer and researcher all over the world, advising governments on democratisation, before moving to the UK.

She has worked for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service since 2000 and has been the BLA Manager since 2004, directly managing our team of around twenty different BLAs. She is also a governor at two local schools.

ruth.nabholz-duncan@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Thursday

The EMAS Office Support: Rubi Giles



Rubi is a native Cantonese speaker, originally from Hong Kong, who has lived in the UK for over thirty years. She trained as a nurse before moving to Portsmouth and starting a family.

She has worked for Portsmouth City Council since 2002 and for EMAS since 2003. Rubi runs the EMAS Office.

rubi.giles@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Friday

The School Support Officer: Jordane Faye



Jordane, a native French-speaker, has experienced living abroad in Iraq, Gabon (West Africa) and in Minnesota (USA). She moved to the UK in 1997 and started working for EMAS in 2004, first as a Bilingual Learning Assistant before becoming the team's School Support Officer in 2015.

Jordane, who has a maths and science background, has a Diploma in Supporting English as an Additional Language and is a qualified TEFL teacher. She continues to support children bilingually but now also creates, researches and gathers resources for schools.

jordane.faye@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Thursday

The Adviser Support Officer: Oxana Matthews



Oxana was born in Moldova and has been living in the UK for over 18 years, but has also worked in Iceland. She has a passion for languages and is fluent in Romanian and Spanish, as well as having skills in Italian, Russian and French. She has a BA in Applied Linguistics and is a qualified Modern Foreign Languages secondary school teacher.

Oxana has been working for EMAS since 2019 and has since gained extensive experience working with EAL children in both primary and secondary schools.

oxana.matthews@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Thursday

The BLA Support Officer: Nahida Choudhury



Nahida is a native Bengali-speaker who was born in the UK and studied in both the UK and Bangladesh.

She has worked for EMAS since 2000 as a Bilingual Learning Assistant and as a Project Development Worker.

nahida.choudhury@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Monday - Friday