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 fullytraded 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 Minority Ethnic (ME) or who have English as an additional language (EAL), through central training, in-house CPD or bespoke school improvement work. We train over 300 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 600 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 or 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.