

INTRODUCTION

Taking a strategic approach to language development

Language is the key to thinking and learning. Language development unlocks the potential of all our learners enabling them to meet the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing and complex world.

Language and learning are inextricably linked and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea provides rich opportunities for students to develop both. Within the borough, approximately 61% of pupils are learning English as an Additional Language and almost 100 languages other than English are spoken. A range of languages can be studied at our diverse schools, colleges and community and voluntary organisations. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is committed to building on its high educational standards and levels of achievement. Language development is central to this process.

Our vision is that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, as a language rich community, promotes language and learning opportunities in schools, colleges and across communities. Effective language learning and development can unlock the potential of all our learners to enable them to thrive and contribute to our rapidly changing and complex world.

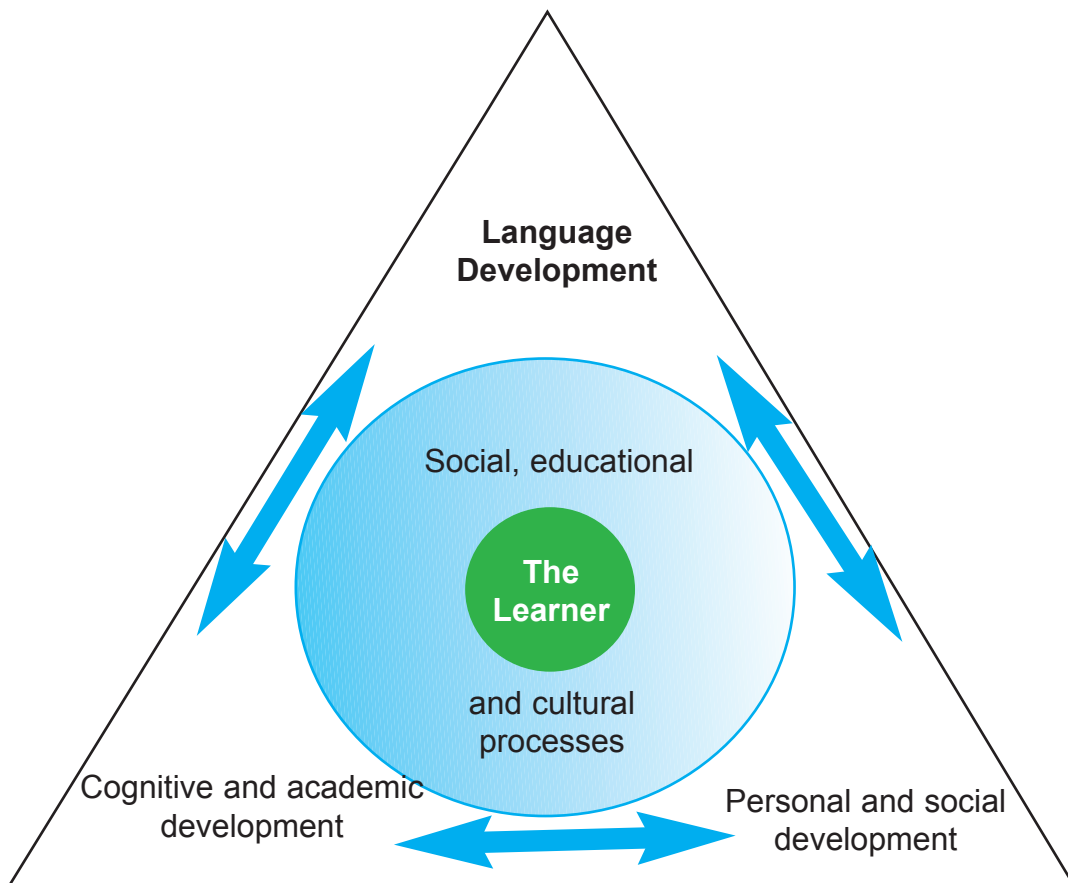


Fig 1
Adapted from Virginia P Collier 1994

Our key principles of language development and learning are based on the understanding that language is inextricably linked to cognitive, academic, personal and social development. Language development is part of and is influenced by social, educational and cultural processes - at home, at school, within the community and the wider world (see Fig 1). Effective language development is important for both individuals and for society and relies on understanding and integrating the social and cultural processes of home, school, community and society. Language development is central to redressing inequalities in the education system.