



The Talk English classes have had a positive impact on local attendees and those travelling from further afield for a variety of reasons.

ESOL classes are very well attended and popular at JNR8: we are now attracting a lot of new residents to the centre - and some of the learners have joined our other classes too. By attending our centre the learners have also been signposted to other relevant support services, i.e. Asylum seeker support, local welfare advice (CoSG, Pakistani Resource sessions in Whalley Range)

In terms of addressing isolation, the weekly classes have been instrumental in building confidence and friendships between the attendees – who regularly join in with additional centre activities such as Tai Chi, IT classes and an ESOL focused baking project.

The combination of classroom learning activities relevant to daily life - along with trips to the art gallery etc – provides a fantastic way to build confidence, taking learners out of their immediate neighbourhood and introducing new opportunities.

Our women-only ESOL class and Computer classes take place on Tuesday: some learners who attend the Talk English class on Mondays from 10-1pm return the following day for the Women's ESOL – and stay for the basic computer class from 11-2pm.

This means that some of the learners are participating in 7 hours learning time at the centre – which is fantastic for the development of their English speaking skills

'JNR8' is the name for the community rooms of Manley Park Methodist Church and is located on a residential street - so not many people drive or walk past the community side of the building: the Talk English classes have established a regular group of learners attending the centre and participating in additional classes.

As the weekly class is mixed we have more men accessing the services: this is really useful for us in terms of finding out the priorities of men in the area.

Some learners from the Talk English class also attend the computer classes and have developed friendships: Learners play table football and socialise during breaks

The age range is diverse for both men and women who attend the sessions.

An average of 12 learners regularly attend the sessions, including Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Dari and Urdu speakers.

The length of the sessions means that a lot of practical work gets done, as well as informal discussions during breaks - which is good practice for Learners.

One Learner who has attended since the first Talk English class at JNR8 was telling me her English has improved so much she has now taken a part time job.

We have regular conversations now, whereas initially her English levels were very low.

She is really happy with the benefits and positive outcomes she has experienced through attending the Talk English class.

We offer a lot of support to the volunteer teachers as the project is a fantastic resource for learners - and we are really impressed with the commitment and level of teaching provided by the volunteers.

- WRCF promotes all ESOL/signposts learners to relevant additional courses
- weekly room set-up including chairs/tables projector on request
- lockable cupboard for registers, session materials, equipment etc

- refreshments provided for learners/teachers,
- Talk English phone/drop in enquiries: referral to classes, info emailed to enquirers/directions given etc
- Promotion of the classes via notice boards, newsletters, websites, schools etc

The classes are a valuable addition to our community centre as prior to the Talk English project we only provided a one hour ESOL session for local women at JNR8.

We advertise the Talk English classes extensively through our email and other networks, via newsletters, at community events and through the local schools/children's centres.

The length of the sessions and practical aspects enable attendees to learn a lot in each session.

The ongoing commitment, patience and enthusiasm of the Talk English volunteers has ensured the building of good relationships with the people who attend the sessions: the classes are valuable in that they build confidence and self esteem amongst students - with the added benefits of cross cultural friendships.

Many ESOL classes in and around the Whalley Range ward are oversubscribed: again the Talk English project has brought both men and women who have struggled to find available classes to our centre, which in turn has widened people's experiences, travelling to a different venue and broadening their participation.

The level of teaching provided by the volunteers in terms of the delivery of the sessions is excellent - and course content is always very relevant to learners in their daily lives.

It is fantastic to see so many people engaging in a variety of activities at our centre: the Talk English sessions are of great benefit to residents in and around the area and we hope we are happy to be able to continue this service.

As mentioned above we are now seeing more people attending our centre - which as it's a little 'off the beaten track' is now becoming known by the wider community – and the local jobcentres are promoting the classes and referring learners to us too.