



## MOORTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### ENGLISH – ORACY POLICY 2023-2024

#### Introduction

At Moorthorpe Primary School with Inclusion Resource, we recognise the fundamental importance of oracy in the development of our students' communication skills, confidence, and academic success. Oracy, as defined by Voice 21, refers to the ability to express oneself effectively, to understand and interpret the speech of others, and to use spoken language for a range of purposes. This Oracy Policy outlines our commitment to promoting and developing oracy skills across all areas of our school community, aligning with the Voice 21 Oracy Framework.

#### Vision and Aims

*Our vision is to empower every student to become a confident, articulate and active communicator, both in the classroom and in the wider world.*

- Our aims are to:
  1. Develop students' spoken language skills to enhance their learning, creativity, and critical thinking.
  2. Foster a positive and inclusive speaking and listening culture within our school.
  3. Equip students with the oracy skills necessary for future success in education and employment.
  4. Embed oracy in our teaching and learning practices, curriculum, and assessment.

In line with this, the National Curriculum in England states that pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 should develop skills in 'spoken language' as part of their English lessons, including the ability to:

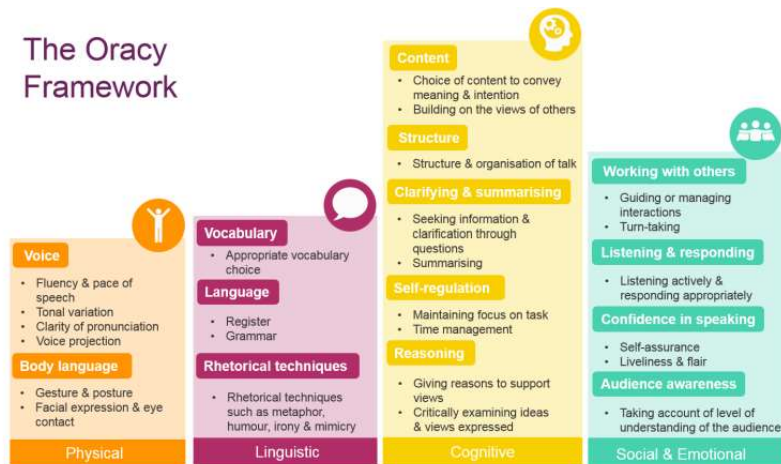
- Articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- Gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- Select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.
- Speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English

#### Oracy Framework Implementation

Our school follows the Voice 21 Oracy Framework to guide our approach to oracy development. The framework comprises four key strands, each with its own components:

1. Physical
2. Linguistic
3. Cognitive
4. Social & Emotional

## The Oracy Framework



This Oracy Policy at Moorthorpe Primary School with Inclusion Resource underscores our commitment to nurturing effective communicators who are confident, articulate, and prepared for success in education and beyond. By embracing the Voice 21 Oracy Framework, we aim to create a culture in which speaking and listening are valued, cultivated, and celebrated at every level of our school.

### Oracy throughout the English curriculum

As a school we are committed to raising and maintaining high standards in English. We support our pupils by providing them with the skills necessary to:

- Develop and build vocabulary
- Participate in collaborative conversations
- Articulate and justify their answers
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes

Oracy is incorporated into English lessons in the following ways:

- drama and role play
- questions
- group discussion
- vocabulary activities
- partner talk
- presentation/performance of written work – e.g. performance poetry

### Oracy in Maths

Oracy is incorporated in maths lessons to increase mathematical vocabulary, support children in proving or justifying their answer and to address misconceptions. Oracy has a particularly important role in Maths reasoning lessons, which have a focus on children verbally communicating their understanding of mathematics accurately. Children work collaboratively to solve a problem and justify their answers. Sentence stems and generalised statements are used to support discussion and can be found within the NCETM and PD Materials documents.

### Oracy across the curriculum

Oracy is incorporated across our broad and balanced curriculum to develop understanding and higher order thinking. Oracy supports pupils to make their thinking clear to themselves as well as others. Oracy is carefully planned into lessons. Questions are differentiated to ensure full

participation and pupil discussions are scaffolded to ensure inclusive practice. Oracy skills that were originally mastered in discreet oracy lessons are now incorporated across the curriculum.

We also have a range of other opportunities for children to develop their oracy skills outside of the curriculum.

For example,

- assemblies – class assemblies
- subject ambassadors
- class/year group productions
- meet and greet with Governors and visitors
- reading buddies
- subject/themed events

### Presentational Oracy

Presentational skills are taught explicitly within lessons in preparation for assemblies and performances. Children are given opportunities throughout the year to speak in front of an audience. Presentational assemblies, performance poetry, school productions and speeches are some examples of the presentational experiences our pupils are offered. Pupils learn the skills required using the oracy framework, and are given verbal feedback from teachers and peers. They consider pitch, tone, pace, gesture, body language and projection when rehearsing and preparing.

### Learning environments:

We promote phrases, stem sentences and key vocabulary on display within our learning environments. In the corridors of Moorthorpe we have ‘invitations’ to talk via our mini ‘talk stations’ with a range of engaging and diverse texts and oracy prompts. Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary selected to be taught through the reading curriculum or the foundation subjects is displayed in classrooms too.

### Oracy at home:













The document below has been shared with parents. It is also available on our website as a support for parents in engaging children in oracy activities at home.

*Oracy at home*

We believe that strong oracy skills are essential for your child's development and future success. Oracy skills encompass speaking and listening abilities, which are crucial not only in academic settings but also in everyday life. We want to share some tips and activities to help you support your child's oracy skills development at home.

**Why Oracy Matters:**  
Oracy skills are essential because they:

1. Build Confidence: Effective communication boosts self-esteem and confidence in children.
2. Improve Academic Achievement: Strong speaking and listening skills aid comprehension and learning.
3. Enhance Social Skills: Good communication fosters positive relationships and teamwork.

<p><b>1. Active Listening:</b> Encourage your child to actively listen during conversations, TV shows, or podcasts. Discuss what they heard, ask questions, and share your own thoughts.</p> 	<p><b>2. Reading Aloud:</b> Read books together, taking turns to read aloud. Encourage your child to express emotions and use different voices for characters.</p> 	<p><b>3. Family Discussions:</b> Create opportunities for family discussions during meals or evening gatherings. Listen to your child's opinions and ask open-ended questions to promote conversation.</p> 	<p><b>4. Storytelling:</b> Encourage your child to create and share their stories. You can start a story, and they can add to it. This fosters creativity and storytelling abilities.</p> 	<p><b>5. Debate and Discussion:</b> Engage in debates or discussions on age-appropriate topics. Encourage your child to express their opinions and provide reasons to support their viewpoint.</p> 	<p><b>6. Vocabulary Building:</b> Introduce new words regularly and discuss their meanings. Encourage your child to use these words in their conversations and writing.</p> 
<p><b>7. Public Speaking Practice:</b> Have your child present a topic or share a story in front of the family. This helps build confidence in speaking in front of others.</p> 	<p><b>8. Listening Activities:</b> Play listening games like "I Spy," or "Simon says," to enhance their auditory attention and memory.</p> 	<p><b>9. Chatterboxes:</b> Give your child a word – see how long you can talk together about this word as a topic. The person who runs out of something to say first, chooses the next topic word.</p> 	<p><b>10. Technology Balance:</b> Limit screen time and encourage face-to-face interactions to improve communication skills.</p> 	<p><b>11. Games</b> Games like "20 Questions" and "Guess Who" promote questioning and reasoning.</p> 	<p><b>12. Current affairs:</b> Watch age-appropriate news programmes e.g. Newsround to discuss current affairs.</p> 

Mia Turner – English Subject Leader – September 2023

We also promote our key sentence stems, one for Nursery and a selection for the rest of school on our school Dojo page to engage parents in our school initiatives. When children perform in a way in which showcases their oracy skills, we share this with parents too to celebrate the children's achievements.

### Inclusivity

Learning Environments Each classroom has working walls which contribute to promoting subject-specific vocabulary development for English, Maths, History, Geography and Science. Classrooms display oracy expectations and guidance in an age appropriate way. The toolkit, guidelines and sentence starters are visible across all year groups. Inclusion Children with additional needs are encouraged to take a full and active part in spoken language activities at a level appropriate for their needs. A significant number of pupils across school access weekly sessions with a speech and language therapist, and we welcome the expertise they bring to the school. Targets are usually set which are then worked on individually or in small groups.

### Enrichments

We have many visitors to school which gives the children opportunities to apply their oracy skills. However, we also have a poetry performance planned in October 2023 and hope to run a 'futures first' day soon where children can interview key members of the community about their career choices.