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**St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School**

**Oracy Policy**

At St Patrick’s, we believe that spoken language is fundamental to learning, personal development, and fostering strong, faith-filled relationships. Rooted in our Catholic values, we recognise that effective communication is a vital skill that allows our pupils to engage with the world confidently and with compassion. Inspired by the words of St. Paul, \*“Let your conversation be always full of grace, so that you may know how to answer everyone,” (Colossians 4:6), our oracy curriculum is designed to enable every child to find their voice and use it purposefully.

**Intent**

Our aim is to develop confident, articulate, and reflective speakers who can express themselves with clarity and respect. We are committed to raising aspirations for all pupils, regardless of background or ability, ensuring that every child reaches their full potential through high-quality opportunities for speaking and listening. Our oracy curriculum aligns with the Oracy Framework, focusing on the physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social-emotional aspects of communication.

**Implementation**

We implement a broad and engaging oracy curriculum from Nursery to Year six, ensuring progressive development in speaking and listening skills. Our approach includes:

The explicit Teaching of Oracy Skills: Pupils are taught how to communicate effectively, listen actively, and adapt their speech for different audiences and purposes.

Rich Vocabulary Development: A strong emphasis is placed on expanding pupils’ vocabulary, enabling them to articulate thoughts with precision and depth.

Discussion and Debate: Regular opportunities for structured discussion, paired talk, and debate encourage critical thinking and respectful communication.

Public Speaking and Performance: Children participate in assemblies, storytelling, drama productions, and prayer services, building confidence in presenting to an audience. Pupils across the school are encouraged to have a strong voice and participate in the strategic planning of opportunities for all. They discuss and present children’s rights and take on important leadership roles within school.

Faith-Based Communication: Opportunities to develop spiritual oracy through prayer, liturgy, and religious reflections deepen pupils’ ability to articulate their faith. Pupils plan and deliver their own daily celebrations of the Word; share stay and pray sessions with parents and parishioners and read regularly in church. As part of the Mini Vinnies society, they run assemblies, meetings and weekly Rosary groups.

Learning Through Communication: We encourage metacognitive approaches where pupils reflect on their communication skills, understand the importance of active listening, and engage in peer feedback.

Cross-Curricular Integration: Oracy is embedded across all subjects, ensuring pupils apply their speaking and listening skills in diverse contexts, from explaining mathematical reasoning to presenting historical arguments.

**Impact**

The impact of our oracy curriculum is seen in the confident, articulate, and empathetic communicators our pupils become. By embedding oracy into every aspect of school life, we ensure that children develop essential life skills that prepare them for secondary education and beyond. The outcomes of our oracy strategies include:

Improved Academic Achievement: Enhanced communication skills contribute to stronger reading, writing, and comprehension across all subjects.

Raised Aspirations: Pupils develop the confidence to express their ideas, challenge misconceptions, and take on leadership roles within school and their wider community.

Stronger Social and Emotional Wellbeing: A focus on respectful dialogue and listening builds positive relationships, resilience, and emotional intelligence.

Readiness for the Future: Pupils leave our school equipped with the ability to communicate effectively in a range of settings, supporting their future success in education and employment.

Deepened Faith and Spiritual Growth: Through articulate prayer and reflection, children grow in their ability to share and explore their faith with others.

By fostering a strong culture of oracy, we empower every child to fulfil their God-given potential, using their voice to make a difference in their own lives and in the world around them.