

ORACY at Yarm Primary

At Yarm Primary, our intent is to provide children with a broad and balanced curriculum, which builds on their needs and prepares them for the future. We use a project-based approach to provide an engaging and purposeful context for learning where pupils are encouraged to apply the skills and knowledge in a range of subjects. We place emphasis on mastering key skills to provide a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

As stated in the National Curriculum, pupils should be taught to:

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others
- select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.

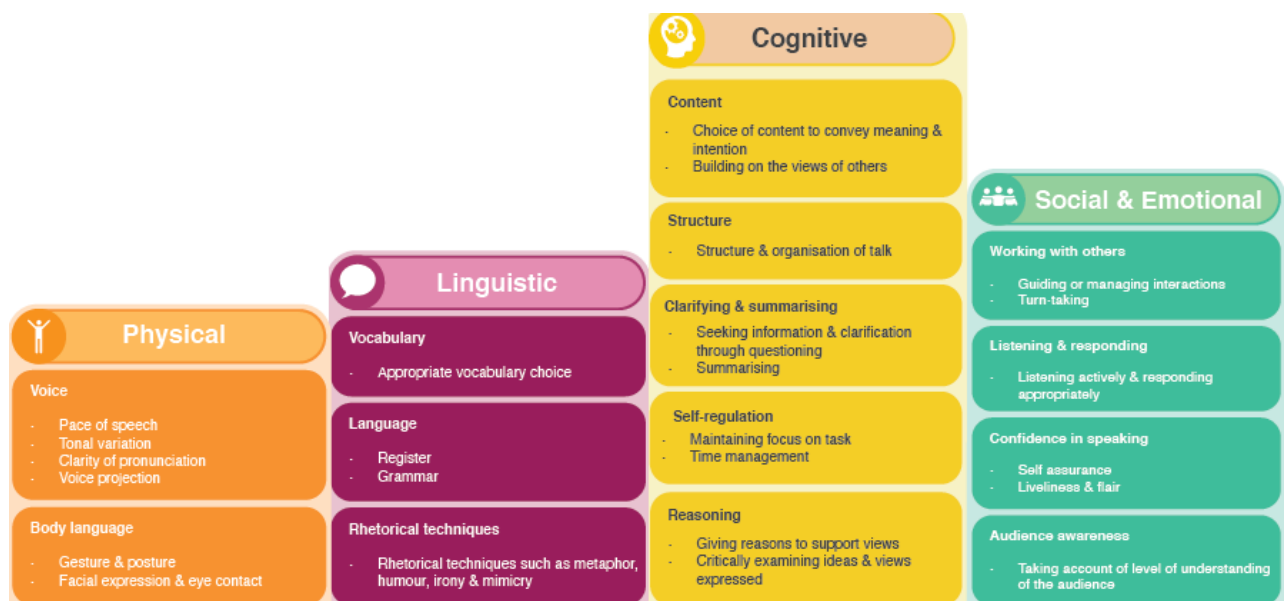
Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language. Teaching oracy explicitly is important because it increases children's confidence, fosters wellbeing, improves academic outcomes and equips students to thrive in life beyond school.

At Yarm Primary, we recognise that language development is an area of vital importance for our children, which has an impact on all wider subjects. We believe oracy to be fundamental to success at school and beyond.

Our intent at Yarm Primary is for children to be confident at articulating ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through effective spoken

language and listening. We intend for oracy to be part of the school's pedagogy, not just a discrete lesson but threaded through the whole curriculum.

To implement our oracy offer at Yarm Primary, we use the Voice 21 framework for oracy which breaks down the teaching of speaking and listening into four strands: Physical, Cognitive, Linguistic, Social and Emotional.



We promote classrooms rich in talk, in which discussions are planned, peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded and the teacher uses talk skilfully to develop thinking. From EYFS to Year 6, children are given opportunities to develop oracy skills and build their confidence in talk for formal and informal situations, both in and outside the classroom.

We have embedded our oracy curriculum, ensuring children have an opportunity to practise a variety of types of talk and practise the skills needed for different oracy outcomes, including:

- exploratory talk
- interactive/negotiation
- recitals (e.g. poetry)
- debate and persuasion
- building understanding
- to inform/teach
- entertainment and expression

The deliberate, explicit and systematic teaching of oracy across school and throughout the curriculum will support our children to make progress in the four strands of oracy.

Children develop their oracy skills by learning *to* talk and by learning *through* talk. Purposeful opportunities that allow them to achieve this include:

- establishing discussion guidelines for speaking and listening
- discussions as a pair, small group or whole class across the curriculum
- drama activities such as Hot Seat, role play
- text exploration and interrogation
- poetry recitals to an audience
- presentations on a specific subject, individually, in pairs or small groups
- debates, with one group of children for and another against a topic
- performances to parents and other classes in school
- peer feedback during the writing process
- meeting with visitors

Pupil voice reflects children's positive attitudes towards oracy throughout school:

'You get to listen to other people's ideas and answers.'

'It helps to show that you are looking and listening.'

'We develop our argument and debate skills.'

'Oracy activities help me to discuss ideas and vocabulary before I write.'

The impact of our oracy offer at Yarm Primary School is that children will be able to explore ideas through talk, expressing themselves with confidence and clarity in a range of informal and formal situations. They will be able to listen carefully and respectfully, contribute to discussions and respond appropriately to others' questions and comments using sophisticated and interesting vocabulary. Children will be able to challenge each other's opinions and develop their own reasoned arguments whilst still valuing the contributions of others and taking into account their views. Children will understand that having good oracy skills boosts their social, emotional and interpersonal skills and is a tool for success both in and beyond school.