



St John and St Francis Church School

'Brings the curriculum to life in imaginative ways' - Ofsted

Oracy Curriculum

What Is Oracy?

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language. Oracy develops students' confidence, articulacy and capacity to learn.

Voice 21.

At St John and St Francis, we believe Oracy encompasses the following actions:

- Engaging with others' ideas and being able to challenge or stretch others' thoughts.
- Reasoning and problem solving by collaboration with others in a team, in a pair or individually.
- Active listening comprehend instructions and to understand the learning.
- Changing people's minds
- Telling compelling stories
- Developing arguments
- Expressing yourself
- Speaking up for what you believe in

Our Vision for Oracy

At St John and St Francis Church School we are working hard to provide a high-quality oracy education. Oracy is the ability to communicate effectively and at St John and St Francis, we want every child to find their voice. Our aim is to remove communication barriers and enable students to be confident and effective communicators at the end of primary school.

Teaching children oracy skills will not only enable them to increase confidence in talk within school but equip them for their future. At St John and St Francis School our aim for oracy is to enable children to:

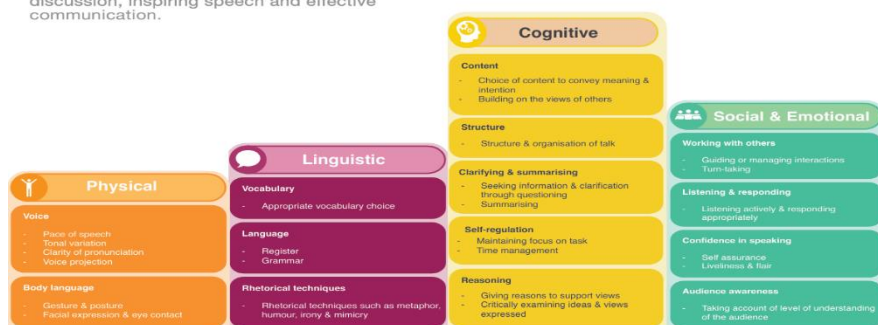
- Speak with confidence, clarity and eloquence.
- Recognise the importance of listening and learn to be an active listener.
- Be confident in the value of their own opinions and have the ability to express them.
- Have a bank of vocabulary they are able to use for different purposes and to be able to use this in complete, articulate sentences.
- Sustain a logical argument, question, reason and respond to others appropriately.
- Be open-minded, to respect the contribution of others and to take account of their views.
- Share their learning in an engaging, informative way through presentations, showcases, drama, poetry and debate.

We use The Oracy Framework, which is made up of four strands (Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive, Social and Emotional- Taken from The Oracy Framework, Voice 21).

The Oracy Framework

Use the Oracy Framework to understand the physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social and emotional skills that enable successful discussion, inspiring speech and effective communication.

Oracy
Cambridge



Oracy across the Curriculum

Oracy is incorporated across our broad and balanced curriculum, in all subject areas, to develop understanding and higher order thinking. Children are given many opportunities to use their speaking and listening skills and develop their oracy skill set. Our school curriculum is rich in oracy opportunities:

- Maths- During maths lessons children have opportunities to discuss their learning, knowledge and reasoning. Children are able to enquire about their learning through maths talk and daily number sense and arithmetic starter activities. They are encouraged to use appropriate sentence stems to express their ideas and to challenge or stretch those ideas of others.
- Writing- In English lessons, our children engage in discussions in a range of contexts including vocabulary, immersion, debates, questioning and feedback. They learn how to present their work verbally, whether it be telling a narrative, they have written to younger peers; giving a persuasive speech at a Climate Change Conference; reading and presenting non-chronological reports to parents or reciting; or performing poetry to peers and parents.
- Reading- In reading children experience daily guided reading where they have to explain and provide evidence for their answers based on a text. They are able to present their answer to the class or peers in a group as their audience. Texts are discussed during reading lessons (vocabulary and comprehension) which are taught explicitly.
- Vocabulary- higher order (tier 3) vocabulary is shared and taught. Use of subject-specific language across all areas of the curriculum is used to support children's Oracy development and this is monitored through planning and book looks and pupil explanations of vocabulary.
- At St John and St Francis, Oracy is at the heart of feedback and assessment for learning, enabling children to discuss their work and any misconceptions. Teachers challenge children through probing questions about their learning.
- We use knowledge organisers and subject specific sentence stems across school that include many talking points for children to reflect on during their curriculum driver lessons.
- ICT- Across the school, children are given opportunities in ICT to present what they have learnt in computing. For example, presenting carefully constructed ppts about Climate change to parents or presentations about their learning during Science week.
- PE- Children actively engage with peer feedback and are encouraged to evaluate each lesson. Sports Ambassadors lead and guide children in sports events daily at breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- Science- Scientific literacy is being developed through immersive experiences and children are encouraged to question their own predictions and results of experiments. The national curriculum for science reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. Through lessons children learn scientific vocabulary and the ability to articulate scientific concepts clearly and precisely. The working scientifically objectives enable children to develop Oracy skills. Every year, we have a parent showcase, where the children can explain their learning to parents in this subject. Additionally, we hold an annual science fair, where the children can present and explain science projects they have created at home.
- History and Geography – At St John and St Francis, the teaching of these subjects is often accompanied by workshops, trips and visitors, who bring the subjects alive as well as allowing the children great opportunities for using their oracy skills. These skills are developed throughout school and follow a progression from EYFS right through to year 6, which develop the different strands of oracy and also provides opportunities for talk, such as presenting their learning to parents and carers in subject specific showcases, sharing learning with their peers in assemblies and planned mixed year group events and special events such as a Climate Change conference held in year 6. Subject specific sentence stems to encourage the use of full sentences and subject specific vocabulary are also used in these subjects, as they are right across the school.
- Art and DT – Opportunities to present work and explain how they produced it, in these subjects, are provided at St John and St Francis just as they are in other subjects. A few examples are children in year 3 showing, reading and explaining how they made pop-up story books to children in year 1, pupils in year 5 demonstrating how to make tie-dye t-shirts and children in year 6 explaining how to make a wind turbine, to name just a few.
- RE and PHSE- The impact of our RE and PHSE curriculums is evident in our children's deep respect for one another and their attitude towards our diverse religious community. We are proud of how our RE and PHSE curriculum supports children to both value difference and understand which shared values and beliefs unite us. Oracy, as in all other subjects, underpins this learning. Our children present their learning to peers and parents in the form of assemblies and special services- we also have Well-being ambassadors (children who are on duty

at breaktimes and lunchtimes) who provide support for children who may need it – this may be in the form of offering support with friendships, solving problems or simply providing some company or a good game. Children are trained for to be well-being ambassadors and oracy and talking are a main focus to that training. Additionally, we have Worship leaders, who lead collective worship on a weekly basis, again using oracy skills taught in weekly Worship meetings.

- Pupil voice- At St John and St Francis, we have young ambassadors and a school council where members along with teaching staff regularly attend meetings to listen, respect and act upon the views of the children. Children also have opportunity to apply to be an Oracy Champion for a given subject of their choice. The Oracy Champions are able to discuss their learning with their subject specific curriculum co-ordinator and to attend pupil voice sessions across the school with their peers. Additionally, pupils in Year 6 apply and are formally interviewed for the positions of Team Captain and Vice-Captain for their school team. These children wear blazers and ties (in their team colours) and are responsible for presenting our school to visitors; prospective parents, academy trust visitors, governors and any other visitors who would appreciate a child's perspective on our school.
- EYFS is the start of our pupils' oracy journey through school. Staff encourage oracy from an early age through talking stories, retelling stories, scaffolding conversations during free flow time and circle time class discussions. Any barriers to oracy are spotted and acted upon here and interventions to assist with speech are put in place. Communication in Early years is a prime learning area and enables children to meet other milestones at the end of the foundation stage.

Outcomes and Impact

At St John and St Francis, our intention is to prepare our children for later life, through weaving talk into the entire curriculum and embedding oracy into all aspects of the school culture. Speaking and listening opportunities are deliberately and explicitly planned to ensure all children develop the skills to listen effectively, discuss and respond with meaning, debate and disagree appropriately and explain their ideas and emotions in a coherent manner. It is our belief that developing their oracy skills will support their confidence, self-belief and courage to speak in public and so be able to share their thoughts, needs, intellect and creativity with the world.