



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Oracy Rationale



Oracy

Intent

At St Cuthbert's, we believe that spoken language is the foundation of reading, writing and learning across the curriculum. We recognise that the ability to communicate effectively is fundamental to children's academic success, personal development and future opportunities. Through an ambitious, language-rich English curriculum, we aim to develop confident, articulate and respectful communicators who can express themselves clearly, listen attentively and engage thoughtfully with the ideas of others.

We recognise that many of our children begin school with limited vocabulary and language experiences. Therefore, from the Early Years onwards, oracy is a central priority within our English curriculum. We explicitly teach vocabulary, speaking and listening skills, ensuring children develop the language needed to access the curriculum, understand increasingly complex texts and communicate effectively in a wide range of contexts.

Oracy is woven throughout our English curriculum because we know that high-quality talk strengthens reading comprehension, supports the writing process and develops children's ability to think critically. We provide purposeful opportunities for children to discuss texts, explain their thinking, justify opinions, debate ideas and present confidently to different audiences. Through structured talk and rich literary experiences, children develop the vocabulary, confidence and reasoning skills needed to become successful readers, writers and lifelong learners.

We believe every child deserves opportunities to find and use their voice. Through performances, storytelling, assemblies, drama, poetry, debates and presentations, children develop confidence, resilience and pride in communicating with others. Our aim is that every child leaves our school as a confident speaker, attentive listener and articulate communicator, fully prepared for the next stage of their education and life beyond school.

Implementation

Oracy is explicitly planned for within our English curriculum and is embedded across all aspects of reading and writing. Teachers create classrooms where purposeful talk is valued as an essential part of learning and where children are encouraged to speak with confidence, listen respectfully and build upon the contributions of others.

From the Early Years, children are immersed in a language-rich environment where storytelling, role play, singing, conversation and high-quality adult interactions develop vocabulary, comprehension and communication. As children progress through school, speaking and listening skills are systematically developed through carefully structured discussion, collaborative learning and opportunities to present ideas for a range of audiences and purposes.

High-quality texts provide the stimulus for meaningful discussion. Teachers use skilful questioning to develop comprehension, inference and critical thinking, encouraging children to explain, justify, predict and evaluate using increasingly ambitious vocabulary. Vocabulary is explicitly taught and modelled, enabling children to communicate precisely and confidently in both spoken and written English.

In Love with Christ: Be the Best I can. Be Kind to One Another. Amen.



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Oracy Rationale



Oracy plays a central role throughout the writing process. Children use talk to rehearse ideas, organise their thinking, refine vocabulary and orally compose sentences before writing. Structured discussion enables children to reflect on their own work, respond to feedback and improve the quality of their writing.

Teachers model high-quality spoken language and provide regular opportunities for drama, storytelling, poetry recitation, debates, performances and presentations. Staff receive ongoing professional development to ensure a consistent approach to developing spoken language, while formative assessment informs future teaching and supports children who require additional language development.

Impact

Through our English curriculum, children develop the confidence, vocabulary and communication skills needed to become articulate and thoughtful communicators.

Our children:

- speak confidently for a range of audiences and purposes using increasingly ambitious vocabulary;
- listen attentively, respond appropriately and build upon the ideas of others;
- explain, justify and articulate their thinking clearly when discussing texts and composing writing;
- use talk effectively to deepen comprehension, strengthen reasoning and improve the quality of their writing;
- participate confidently in performances, discussions, debates and presentations;
- leave our federation as articulate, respectful and confident communicators who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and future life.

In Love with Christ: Be the Best I can. Be Kind to One Another. Amen.