

St Anne Line Catholic Infant School

part of the wider Christus Trust, Multi Academy Trust

Oracy Policy



Love Learn Pray

Oracy Policy Statement

Vision for Oracy at St. Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery

At St. Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery, we believe that oracy (the ability to speak and communicate effectively) is an essential skill for life. We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to develop their oracy skills to become confident, articulate, and empathetic communicators. Our commitment to oracy is rooted in our Catholic ethos, which emphasizes kindness, respect, and the dignity of every individual. We aim to create an environment where children feel safe and encouraged to express themselves and listen to others with empathy and understanding.

We aim to improve spoken communication in primary education. These principles include supporting pupils' ability to articulate their thoughts, engage in discussions, and build listening skills, contributing to their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Aims of the Oracy Policy

- To support the development of effective speaking and listening skills in all pupils.
- To ensure oracy is embedded across the curriculum and in all areas of school life.
- To encourage a culture where pupils value the spoken word as a vital tool for learning and interaction.
- To develop pupils' confidence in expressing themselves clearly and respectfully.
- To provide opportunities for collaborative learning, dialogue, and debate.
- To foster reflective listening skills, promoting respectful and attentive communication.

Principles of Oracy at St. Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery

Oracy is at the heart of our pedagogy, and we believe that it should be an integral part of all teaching and learning. Our approach to oracy is underpinned by the following principles:

- **Spoken Language Across the Curriculum:** Oracy is not confined to literacy lessons but is woven throughout the entire curriculum. Children will have regular opportunities to talk in pairs, groups, and larger settings to deepen their understanding.
- **Spontaneous and Structured Talk:** Pupils will engage in both spontaneous, informal conversations and more structured forms of talk, such as debates,

presentations, and storytelling. We will ensure that children can use language flexibly in different situations.

- **Interactive and Collaborative Learning:** We believe that oracy thrives in an environment where pupils learn collaboratively. We encourage pupils to share their ideas, listen to each other, and build on one another's contributions.
- **Active Listening:** We promote the importance of listening with intent and respect. Listening is as important as speaking, and pupils will be encouraged to show respect and understanding through active listening skills.
- **Reflection and Feedback:** Oracy skills will be nurtured through self-reflection and feedback from peers and teachers. Constructive feedback will guide pupils in improving their communication skills.
- **Diverse Communication Skills:** We recognise the importance of diverse forms of communication, including verbal and non-verbal communication, such as gestures, facial expressions, and body language.

Oracy Across the Curriculum

Oracy will be explicitly taught and encouraged across all areas of learning:

Daily Opportunities for Talk: Throughout the school day, there will be planned opportunities for children to talk with a range of partners in different contexts, whether in one-to-one discussions, small group work, or whole-class debates.

Speaking and Listening in Literacy: Oracy will be embedded into our literacy teaching, with a focus on developing speaking and listening through story-telling, reading aloud, and using oral language to support the understanding of texts. We promote oracy through our Read Write Inc. phonics and reading sessions.

Mathematics and Problem-Solving: Children will articulate their mathematical thinking through verbal explanations and reasoning during problem-solving activities.

Religious Education and Reflection: Speaking and listening activities will be used in our Religious Education lessons, allowing children to discuss their thoughts, feelings, and reflections on faith, prayer, and community. They will have opportunities to develop oracy in pupil-led Celebration of the Word through the principles: Gather, Word, Response and Send.

Circle Time and Wellbeing Sessions: Regular circle time sessions will allow children to express their thoughts, share experiences, and listen to others in a safe and nurturing environment.

Assemblies and Celebration of the Word: Pupils will have opportunities to speak in front of an audience in a structured environment, such as in assemblies, class prayers, and collective worship.

Developing Oracy Skills

Oracy development will take place in stages from Nursery to Year 2:

- **Nursery:** At this early stage, oracy will focus on developing listening skills, encouraging simple conversations, and building confidence in using language. Storytelling, role-play, and singing will be key tools for nurturing oracy.
- **Reception:** In Reception, pupils will expand their vocabulary and begin to engage in longer conversations. They will begin to take turns in conversation and participate in group discussions.
- **Year 1 and Year 2:** In these years, pupils will work on articulating their ideas more clearly and listening carefully to others. They will practice presenting ideas in front of peers, participate in group debates, and answer open-ended questions.

Please see our English Progression of Knowledge and Skills document and our Early Reading and Phonics policy for more information regarding oracy through English and reading lessons.

Teaching and Learning Strategies for Oracy

To ensure a consistent and effective approach to oracy, teachers at St. Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery will use a range of strategies, including:

- **Read Write Inc. Think about the Story and Questions to Talk About:** This encourages children's expression and delivery which is practised through our Storybook sessions in our phonics lessons.
- **Role-Play and Drama:** Role-play and drama activities will be used to help pupils explore different perspectives and practice speaking in different contexts.
- **TTYP (Talk to your partner):** This is used in every phonics lesson which encourages children to listen and respond to their partner.
- **Think-Pair-Share:** This strategy allows pupils to reflect individually on a question, share their ideas with a partner, and then share with the whole class.
- **Collaborative Talk:** Children will engage in pair and group work, where they are encouraged to discuss, debate, and reflect on their learning together.
- **Questioning Techniques:** Teachers will use open-ended questions to encourage extended thinking and verbal responses. This will encourage pupils to elaborate on their ideas.
- **Storytelling and Recitation:** Opportunities for storytelling, reciting poems, and acting out stories will help to develop confidence and fluency in spoken language.
- **Active Listening Activities:** Pupils will participate in listening activities, where they listen carefully to others and respond appropriately.

Assessment of Oracy

Oracy will be assessed through:

Observations of Pupils' Speaking and Listening: Teachers will observe how pupils express themselves and listen in different contexts.

Peer and Self-Assessment: Pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own oracy skills and give feedback to their peers.

Ongoing Feedback: Teachers will provide regular feedback on pupils' speaking and listening abilities, highlighting areas of strength and areas for development.

Target Setting: Teachers will set individual oracy targets with pupils, supporting them to focus on specific aspects of their communication skills.

Involvement of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the development of oracy outside of school through:

Reading Aloud and Discussion: Encouraging daily reading sessions at home, where parents engage in discussions about the text and ask open-ended questions.

Creating a Talk-Friendly Environment: Parents will be encouraged to create an environment at home where children feel comfortable talking about their thoughts and ideas.

Parent-Teacher Communication: Teachers will engage with parents to discuss progress in oracy and provide strategies to support development at home.

Conclusion

At St. Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery, oracy is a fundamental skill that will support our pupils in becoming confident communicators and active participants in their learning and community. Through a structured and nurturing approach to oracy, we will ensure all pupils can articulate their thoughts and ideas, listen with respect, and engage meaningfully in their learning journey.

Equal Opportunities

Please refer to our Policy for Equal Opportunities and our policy for Race Equality

and Cultural Diversity.