

St Anne Line Catholic Infant School

part of the wider Christus Trust, Multi Academy Trust

Oracy Policy



Love Learn Pray

Our Vision for Oracy

At St Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery, we believe that language is the foundation of all learning. Through language, children make sense of the world, build relationships, express their thoughts and develop confidence as learners. We recognise that strong communication skills underpin success not only in English, but across the entire curriculum and throughout life.

As a school with a high proportion of pupils who speak English as an Additional Language, we place the development of vocabulary and oral language at the centre of our curriculum. We are ambitious for all children and believe that every pupil deserves access to rich, challenging language regardless of their starting point. Through explicit vocabulary instruction, purposeful talk and meaningful experiences, we help children acquire the language they need to think deeply, communicate effectively and succeed academically.

Our commitment to oracy is rooted in our Catholic ethos of Love, Learn and Pray. We strive to create an environment where children feel safe and encouraged to express themselves, knowing that their ideas and experiences are valued. We teach pupils to listen attentively, speak respectfully and communicate with empathy, kindness and confidence.

Our golden thread:

Language → Reading → Writing → Independence

runs through every aspect of school life. We believe that children first learn to communicate through talk, then become readers who can understand the ideas of others, and finally become writers who can express their own ideas with creativity, precision and independence.

Oracy Across the Curriculum

Oracy is at the heart of our pedagogy and is embedded across all curriculum areas. We believe that children learn best when they are given opportunities to think aloud, discuss ideas and explain their understanding.

From Nursery onwards, children are immersed in a language-rich environment where stories, songs, rhymes and high-quality interactions are valued and celebrated. Skilled adults model ambitious vocabulary, encourage discussion and provide opportunities for children to listen attentively, explain their thinking and articulate their ideas with increasing clarity and confidence.

Children are given regular opportunities to:

- Talk with a range of partners and groups.
- Listen actively and respond respectfully.
- Use ambitious vocabulary in context.
- Explain their thinking and justify their opinions.
- Retell stories and recount experiences.

- Ask and answer questions.
- Participate in drama, role play and storytelling.
- Present ideas to an audience.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own learning.

Oracy is woven throughout English, mathematics, religious education and the wider curriculum. Children use talk to deepen understanding, solve problems and make connections across their learning.

Developing Oracy from Nursery to Year 2

Nursery – Building the foundations

In Nursery, children develop the communication, vocabulary and listening skills that underpin future success. Through stories, songs, rhymes, role play and purposeful interactions, they begin to understand the power of language and become confident communicators.

Adults model language continuously, extending children's vocabulary and encouraging them to express their ideas, feelings and experiences.

Reception – Finding their voice

In Reception, children build on these foundations through systematic phonics teaching, oral rehearsal and meaningful opportunities to talk, read and write.

Children are encouraged to:

- Retell stories and events.
- Participate in group discussions.
- Ask questions and explain their thinking.
- Use new vocabulary in context.
- Compose sentences orally before writing them.

Through our Think, Say, Write, Check approach, children learn that spoken language supports successful writing.

Years 1 and 2 – Communicating with confidence

In Key Stage 1, children become increasingly confident and articulate communicators.

They are taught to:

- Speak clearly and confidently in different contexts.
- Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Adapt their language for different audiences and purposes.
- Use ambitious vocabulary and subject-specific language.
- Explain and justify their thinking.
- Participate in discussions, presentations and drama activities.

High-quality texts, Book Club, drama, storytelling, pupil-led liturgies, celebrations, and rich

discussion through all areas of the curriculum, provide meaningful opportunities for children to develop their spoken language alongside their reading and writing.

As pupils progress through Year 2, they become increasingly fluent communicators who can express their ideas clearly, listen with empathy and engage thoughtfully with the ideas of others.

Teaching Strategies

Teachers use a range of strategies to develop oracy across the curriculum, including:

- Think, Pair, Share
- Talk to Your Partner (TTYP)
- Storytelling and retelling
- Drama and role play
- Open-ended questioning
- Collaborative learning
- Read Write Inc. 'Questions to Talk About'
- Circle Time
- Celebration of the Word
- Assemblies and pupil presentations
- Vocabulary instruction and oral rehearsal

Impact

By the time children leave St Anne Line Catholic Infant School and Nursery, they are confident communicators who use language to think, question, explain and connect with others.

They listen respectfully, speak with clarity and empathy, and have the vocabulary and confidence to flourish as readers, writers and independent learners.

Through language, our children find their voice.