



Curriculum Overview for Speaking and Listening ~ December 2019

Intent

Birkwood Primary School recognises communication as greatly important; therefore, it is at the heart of our curriculum. Speaking and listening skills development starts as soon as children enter our Early Years Foundation Stage Unit and continues throughout school, appropriate to the age, ability and needs of our children. All staff and governors consider the teaching of speaking and listening to be of great importance and continually strive to improve and develop our practice to ensure that children are clear speakers and competent listeners by the time they leave our setting. Developing cultural capital is at the core of all teaching at Birkwood Primary School and children are given the chance to apply their knowledge in a range of ways throughout the school day. Our **Intent** is to link speaking and listening to the world around our children, by providing a context through topic-based lessons, to hear about and discuss people, places and events outside their own experience. Discussion within a context we believe will improve children's vocabulary, leading to more highly-developed language skills and improve the child's ability to speak well and appropriately. We develop these skills so that our children are capable of expressing their own ideas clearly and confidently, in a safe and supportive environment, in all aspects and areas of their school life and into their future. All children should have a voice.

Implementation

All staff in school model the use of higher-level vocabulary within their speech, expanding children's vocabulary is a key focus from the EYFS up to Year 6.

Speaking and listening are central to teaching and learning in all curriculum areas. Talk is also the foundation of literacy. Young children listen and speak well before they read or write. We encourage our children to use speech to express their needs and wishes, find out about their interests, and engage in imaginative and exploratory play. We provide children with lots of opportunities to listen to and speak about different topics in a range of contexts in order to develop their language skills, which will also enhance school achievement.

EYFS

- We particularly value the importance of quality interactions during play, where vocabulary is introduced and extended appropriately to the children's development and next steps
- We provide a language rich environment, enhanced with communication in print, to provide children with the opportunity to give meaning to print
- To enrich language development and support cultural capital, we believe in providing exciting learning opportunities both indoors, outdoors and through the wider community
- Children listen to a wide range of stories on a daily basis where they have opportunities 'to be part of the story'
- Phase 1 Phonics is a focus in Nursery where listening is integral to the development of auditory discrimination which in turn lays the foundations for future reading development throughout school
- Children take part in rainbow talk where they are given the opportunity to discuss their opinion and experiences through the sense of touch, sight, sound and taste

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

- All children in Year 1 and 2 take part in daily phonics sessions which are appropriate to their current phase
- In all classes, children are exposed to language-rich learning environments
- Aspirational vocabulary is displayed throughout school
- Progressive vocabulary lists are in place for each subject in school so language is taught sequentially across school
- Children take part in weekly 'show and tell' sessions in Key Stage 1
- Our Open Futures approach to the curriculum allows us many opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills through the 'Ask It'(P4C) strand
- Across school, children take part in weekly 'Ask it' sessions where they can express their own and listen to the opinions and beliefs of others
- Across school, children complete a termly 'Film It' project, where they work as teams to share and develop ideas, and perform fictional roles to tell their stories
- Across school, children share their learning with members of the school and local community twice a year in class assemblies
- Children take part in a wide range of performances throughout the year to enhance their speaking skills, these include: Nativities, Church Readings, Pantomimes and Drama Club shows. The school is currently an 'Artsmark Silver' school
- Children are asked by SLT and visitors to articulate their learning and are very confident in doing so
- The School Council have many opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills with weekly meetings, visits to The Barnsley Town Hall to interact with the Mayor and also a visit to the Houses of Parliament
- Interventions such as Thrive and Socially Speaking are available to children who need extra support to develop their communication skills

Impact

Children enter our setting below or well below age related expectations in their language development. As children move through school the gap between National figures is narrowed. As a result of the above actions, Quality First Teaching, opportunities provided both in and out of school, high aspirations, language rich learning environments ~ pupils make outstanding progress, considering their starting points, which is sustained throughout all year groups.

Children at Birkwood Primary School are able to express themselves well and can articulate their learning to others. We are proud of the progress children make in Speaking and Listening and will continue to strive to develop their language and communication skills.

Summary Outcomes

Leaders are ambitious and determined that every pupil in Birkwood Primary School will learn to listen well and speak clearly, regardless of their background, needs, disadvantage and abilities.

We aim for all children to leave EYFS with the ability to have quality interactions with adults and their peers, and leave KS1 with good phonics knowledge so they can access the wider curriculum and develop higher order skills throughout KS2. When children leave our school we want them to be fluent, expressive speakers. We believe that speaking and listening skills are the foundations of literacy and one of the most important things we teach our children. It is a life skill that enables them to extend their concepts, gain information as the basis for other learning and enables children to develop their imaginations and creative thinking skills. Therefore, speaking and listening skills development will continue to be of great importance in our school.

Areas for Action

*Please see SDP 2019-20