Birkwood Primary Spoken Language Progression
In EYFS, communication and language is one of the most important building blocks for all other areas. From Years 1-6, children participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates. Our aim is for all children to speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English. Children are given opportunities to select and use appropriate registers for effective communication. Question and sentence stems scaffold and support learning so that all children can participate and achieve.
EYFS F1
• Listen • Respond • Comment • Exchange • Offer ideas • Begin to explain • Join in songs and rhymes
EYFS Reception
• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions • Respond with comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussion • Respond in small group discussion / interaction • Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify understanding • Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with teachers and peers • Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions • Offering ideas • Use recently introduced vocabulary • Offer explanations for why things might happen • Make use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate • Express ideas and feelings about experiences using full sentences • Including use of past, present and future tenses • Make use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from teacher
Year 1
• listen to adults • listen to peers • participate in paired talk taking turns listening to each other • maintain eye contact in discussions where possible • respond appropriately to adults • respond appropriately to peers • ask questions using who, what, when, where, why, how, did, • answer questions using because • recognise sentence boundaries in spoken sentences
Year 2
• give descriptions orally • maintain attention in group discussion • participate in group discussions taking turns • have a guess by speculating on ideas discussed • explore ideas orally • express imagined ideas
Year 3
• explore opportunities for drama • discuss learning • tell a story orally • express feelings using I feel ____ because ____ • gain the interest of the listener • begin to participate in debates • give well-structured descriptions • ask questions to gain knowledge • ask questions to extend understanding • build vocabulary based on discussion • actively contribute to collaborative conversation • consider different viewpoints • stay on topic

• build on previous speaker's comments • articulate and justify answers with reasons • generate sensible hypothesis based on discussion • use language in different situations
Year 4
• present work through drama and presentations • reflect on learning • engage in debates • articulate opinions • give well-structured descriptions • explain thinking using I think ___ because ___ • consider and evaluate different viewpoints • articulate arguments with reasons • build arguments using if, so, when • justify answers with reasons • justify opinions with because • gain and maintain the interest of the listener • use language in a variety of different situations
Year 5
• participate in discussions, role play and improvisations • explore and demonstrate understanding of language • use a wide range of vocabulary • engage in debate • articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions • consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others • give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings • maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments • develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas • gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s) • participate in public performance • practice public speaking • discuss and reflect on learning • give presentations and performances
Year 6
• regularly participate in discussions and role play • emphasise pupils' enjoyment and understanding of language, especially vocabulary, to support their writing • pupils' confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, presentations, performances and debate • speak audibly and fluently with a command of Standard English • select and use appropriate registers for effective communication • discuss and reflect on experiences, learning and texts