

What is Oracy?

- ◇ Oracy is the ability to express yourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively through spoken language.
- ◇ Thinking carefully about your language choices and tailoring it to a specific purpose or audience.
- ◇ Oracy promotes different speaking styles—learning to talk and learning through talk.
- ◇ Teaches children how to be an active listener.

Why is Oracy important?

- ◇ Communication is a vital skill that children need now and in their future lives.
- ◇ Good Oracy leads to improved outcomes across the curriculum.
- ◇ It helps children secure relationships with others.

Oracy at Coney Hill Primary

- ◇ At Coney Hill we have adopted the Voice 21 framework which splits the teaching of speaking and listening into 4 strands.
- ◇ Our lessons are rich in talk, questions are planned, peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded, and staff use talk skillfully to develop thinking.
- ◇ Children are given opportunities to develop Oracy skills and build their confidence in talking in formal and informal situations.
- ◇ Children have specific Oracy lessons—Talk Tuesday, where they are taught skills across the strands, using sentence stems to support where necessary. Rich vocabulary is explored and children have the opportunity to discuss, debate and recite themes across a range of topics.
- ◇ Speaking and listening are core fundamentals of our curriculum.



Oracy at home

The most important thing parents can do at home is to talk with your child and encourage them to think and express themselves. Research shows that children who are able to express themselves are better able to progress in other areas of learning such as reading and writing.

Easy things you can do to support your child

- ◇ Making eye contact with your child will help your child to focus when you are speaking to them.
- ◇ Body language is so important when talking to your child, as it shows your child that you are interested in what they are saying—face you body towards you child to show them you are engaged in the conversation.
- ◇ Encourage your child to speak in full sentences. Repeat back what they are saying using full sentences to model the language.
- ◇ Remind your child to speak politely and say please and thank you.



How else can I help? Magic 7 : ways to promote oracy at home

- ◇ Read aloud to your child, even when they can read for themselves. This helps children to build their vocabulary, express their thoughts and understand the structure of language.
- ◇ Record a video diary.
- ◇ Play words games—Guess who, 20 questions, I spy are great for helping children to use descriptive language and think about what they are saying.
- ◇ Talk about their day.
- ◇ Phone a friend or relative—encourage your child to talk and listen, engaging in a back and forth conversation.
- ◇ Go on a nature walk.
- ◇ Sign them up for a club—joining extracurricular clubs is a good opportunity for your child to converse with different people outside the home or school environment.

