



Spoken Language at Heritage Park Primary School

Intent

Research shows that children who are supported to develop strong language skills in their earliest years, are more likely to success in school and work, and lead happier lives... Supporting children to develop good language and communication skills from birth and through all phases of their education is fundamental for ensuring that every child is equipped with the literacy skills they need to thrive in the modern world.
(National Literacy Trust)

We want to inspire pupils to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and be able to use discussion to communicate and further their learning. We are aware that many of our pupils will start school from varied starting points of early language acquisition and therefore a language rich environment, with a strong focus on oracy, is essential to the success for all pupils. Spoken language is fundamental to achievement across the curriculum, as good communication skills can enhance every type of learning. Pupils are encouraged to explore ideas through talk; challenge each other's opinions and develop their own reasoned arguments, as well as talking in full sentences with a clear and confident voice.

Implementation

Speaking and listening play a large part in a child's progress and teachers plan to develop these skills in a wide variety of ways. We aim to develop and encourage fluent speakers, who are confident to operate in a wide range of situations. Pupils should have a range of experiences to develop their spoken language, which include but are not limited to:

- Drama
- Role play
- Whole class discussions
- 1:1 and small group conversations
- Listening to and performing stories, poems and rhymes
- Guided reading and book talk
- Preparation for writing, e.g. oral storytelling
- Visiting speakers
- Giving and receiving instructions
- Paired/collaborative work
- Presentation of learning
- Developing and embedding vocabulary

Teaching and Learning

The Reception year provide the building blocks to pupils' spoken language development. It is crucial that staff at this stage provide a wide range of oracy opportunities for pupils. We have used the Early Learning Goals and examples from Development Matters to inform our progression document. Our Reception pupils are also encouraged to speak in full sentence to adults in school. Throughout KS1 and KS2, there are opportunities to develop pupils' oracy which are embedded into the curriculum. The statutory requirements for Spoken Language in the National Curriculum have been closely referred to when writing the progression statements for Years 1-6.

Staff model the use of higher-level vocabulary and expanding children's vocabulary is a key focus in all years. Subject specific vocabulary is embedded across the curriculum, through explicit teaching, in context. Contextual learning helps children to understand new words and supports them in including new vocabulary in their work. Staff also model the correct grammar in speech, for example using Standard English, and staff encourage children to reflect this in their use of spoken and written language.

Spoken language underpins the SMSC values as by its very nature, spoken language aids social development as pupils learn to listen and hear the views of others, whilst also developing their own conversational skills among a range of audiences. Spoken language also allows pupils the opportunity to hear differing opinions than their own, which enables them to develop their tolerance towards others. By teaching pupils to become more effective speakers and listeners we aim to empower them to have a better understanding of themselves, each other and how the past has influenced the world around them today.

Impact

Through the development of spoken language skills, our pupils will become fluent and confident speakers. Pupils will make good progress from their own personal starting points, enabling the majority of our pupils to achieve or exceed their expected targets when undertaking assessments. By understanding how to articulate themselves coherently through speech, this will in turn support pupils to be improved communicators in writing. Additionally, through having a well-developed vocabulary understanding, pupils are better equipped to succeed within their reading. The impact of spoken language goes beyond the results of the assessments, and helps to support children in both their education and personal development.