

Speaking and Listening at Old Park

Speaking and Listening is led by our English lead and our Curriculum DHT

Why Do We Teach Speaking & Listening at Old Park?

At Old Park Primary School we want to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and to be able to use discussion to communicate and further their learning. Speaking and listening is central to our curriculum. We nurture children's speaking and listening skills through a variety of approaches: exploratory play, Forest School, story time, hot-seating, Picture News, poetry rehearsals and Shakespeare Rehearsal Rooms as well as through collaborative learning. We develop these skills so that our children are capable of expressing their own ideas clearly and confidently, in a safe and supportive environment, throughout their schooling career and beyond.

Our intent is to enable children to:

- Express their opinions, articulate feelings and listen to and respond appropriately in a range of situations;
- Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and clearly explain their understanding and ideas
- Participate with different groups of children to present ideas with confidence, valuing the views of others;
- Speak audibly and confidently before an audience (for example when leading class and whole-school worship; when performing in school plays).

How Do We teach Speaking & Listening at Old Park

Approaches to teaching and learning encourage pupils to voice their ideas in small group and class discussions, as we recognise that sharing and explaining concepts with peers enhances learning. Staff model the use of higher level vocabulary within their speech and expanding children's vocabulary is a key focus from EYFS. Old Park Primary school has also run the Nuffield Early Language Intervention in order to improve the oral language skills of pupils aged 4-5 years. In addition to this, children who are identified by their teachers as having a speech and language need are referred to our school SENCo and parents are encouraged to make a FASTA referral.

Subject specific vocabulary is embedded across the curriculum, through teacher modelling, in context. Contextual learning helps children to understand new words and supports them in including them in their work.

Guided Reading sessions encourage pupils to explore unfamiliar vocabulary and expand their knowledge of words. Staff model correct grammar in speech and encourage children to reflect this in their use of spoken and written language. Children are given the chance to orally rehearse ideas for writing regularly.

Drama is used across the curriculum to explore and engage children in their learning. This gives children the chance to embed vocabulary in shared activities. Throughout the school year, pupils are given the opportunity to perform in class assemblies, in ambassador roles and poetry recitals.

Children in Reception perform a nativity play each Christmas; Years 1 -6 also perform a Christmas production and Year 6 perform in a leavers assembly and production in the Summer term. The school participates in an annual public speaking competition with a local cluster of schools.

As part of our skills builder sessions speaking and listening is taught and assessed across the school.

Does Our Speaking and Listening Curriculum Influence Our Children?

Old Park Primary believes that speaking and listening gives our pupils the basic skills that they need to communicate with the world around them. Pupils are given a range of opportunities to develop these skills, in a safe and stimulating environment. Children recognise that speaking and listening can lie at the heart of conveying character, and that through speaking and listening effectively, misunderstandings can be addressed and relationships enhanced. The wide range of speaking and listening activities, which are weaved throughout our curriculum, help to develop ideas, vocabulary and confidence. By exposing and engaging our children in quality conversation, we are broadening their vocabulary. By the time they leave us, we aim for our pupils to have the fluency and confidence to use language to convey information, ideas, comments and personal views in a socially acceptable manner appropriate to the purpose and audience.