



Fender Primary

Oracy Policy

Vision

We believe that every child has the right to be heard, understood and valued. Oracy is central to our curriculum and culture, enabling pupils to develop authentic voices, support their wellbeing and ensure full inclusion. Through high-quality speaking and listening, children learn to think, connect and thrive.

Aims

- To develop confident, articulate speakers who can express their ideas clearly and respectfully.
- To promote authentic pupil voice, ensuring children influence their learning and school community.
- To use oracy as a tool to support wellbeing, emotional regulation and positive relationships.
- To ensure all pupils, regardless of background or need, can access and succeed through speaking and listening.
- To celebrate linguistic diversity, variations in accent, dialect and signing styles.

Approach

We use strategies informed by Voice 21 to explicitly teach oracy through a high-quality, talk-rich curriculum. Oracy is planned, modelled and assessed across all subjects. It is a feature of every single lesson at Fender; this might be a short warm-up or the outcome of the lesson itself. It is planned carefully into every lesson with consideration also given to ensuring children hear themselves in the curriculum, bolstered by hearing a diverse range of voices.

Key Principles

- **Teaching Oracy Explicitly:** children are taught the skills of speaking and listening through the four strands: physical, linguistic, cognitive and social/emotional.
- **Structured Talk:** lessons include purposeful opportunities for speaking and listening (e.g. talking points, discussion guidelines, sentence stems (where appropriate) etc).
- **Authentic Voice:** children are given meaningful opportunities to share opinions, lead discussions and contribute to decision-making.

- **Inclusive Practice:** scaffolds such as vocabulary prompts, sentence frames, widge translation cards and visual supports ensure all children can participate.
- **Oracy for Wellbeing:** oracy is used to support emotional expression, reflection and connection, fostering a safe and supportive environment.
- **Celebrating Language Diversity:** we actively value and celebrate all forms of communication, including regional accents, dialects, home languages and signing. Pupils are encouraged to see their way of speaking as a strength, while also being supported to develop flexibility in using different forms of language for different audiences and purposes.

Classroom Practice

- Teachers model high-quality talk and explicitly teach discussion behaviours.
- Clear talk routines (e.g. turn-taking, active listening, building on others' ideas) are embedded.
- Vocabulary is prioritised and revisited to support confident expression.
- Children engage in a range of talk types, including exploratory talk, reasoning, storytelling and formal presentation.
- Opportunities are created for pupils to share and celebrate their linguistic and cultural backgrounds, including multilingual talk and signing where appropriate.

Inclusion

We ensure equitable participation by:

- Planning for all learners.
- Using targeted scaffolds and adult support where needed.
- Creating a safe environment where all contributions and ways of communicating are respected and valued.

Assessment and Monitoring

- Oracy is assessed formatively through observation, discussion and pupil outcomes.
- Staff use the oracy framework to identify strengths and next steps.
- Pupil voice is gathered regularly to evaluate impact.
- Oracy is assessed termly through discussion at termly pupil-progress meetings.

Staff Development

- Ongoing professional development ensures all staff are confident in teaching oracy.
- Opportunities for coaching, collaboration and reflection are embedded.
- Staff are supported to understand and value linguistic diversity, avoiding deficit views of accent, dialect or language use.
- Our own network, Oracy North West, allows for regular collaboration and sharing of good practice across the North West.

At Fender, oracy is not an add-on; it is the foundation of learning, wellbeing and inclusion. By valuing every voice in all its forms, we empower each child to communicate with confidence, authenticity and pride.

