



Talking Together

Oracy is the ability to communicate effectively and lack of oracy skills can be a significant barrier to children’s attainment. Oral communication links well to all areas of the curriculum and is an essential life skill. Both research and our experience have shown that good oracy leads to higher order thinking and deeper understanding which support children’s progress in all areas of the curriculum.

Our aim as schools (BFP: Barrington Foxton and Petersfield Primary Schools) therefore, is to elevate speaking to the same status as reading and writing. We are working with Voice 21 and using a framework for oracy which was developed with Cambridge University and breaks down oracy into 4 distinct strands:

Physical, Cognitive, Linguistic, and Social & Emotional





Talking Together

At the heart of good oracy in school is a classroom rich in talk, in which questions are planned, peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded and the teacher uses talk skilfully to develop thinking. For this to happen, we believe it is essential to provide a variety of opportunities for children to develop confidence in talking and learn how to analyse and talk about talk. We are developing a series of opportunities for your children across our schools.

As with all areas of learning in school, the impact will be significantly greater when opportunities to develop this learning are taken in the home environment. Some of the things you can do at home to support your child are:

- Emphasise the importance of physical oracy skills: eye contact, body language etc.
- Consider choosing an oracy based homework task from the curriculum menu.
- Ensure that whatever homework project you and your child choose, opportunities for your child to talk about them to the full are exploited.
- When you are reading with your child, take the opportunity to discuss the meaning of any new words to extend their vocabulary and talk about the content of the text they are reading.
- Encourage your child to summarise their thoughts about their learning and/or their feelings.
- Encourage children to voice their opinions and justify them with a reason.
- Please talk with your children about the discussion guidelines that each class are writing as these may provide useful guidance for you too.

If you would like any further information about the work we are doing to develop the children's oracy skills please talk to your child's class teacher.