Oracy at Gorse Hall Primary School



At Gorse Hall, we are working hard to provide a high quality oracy education, in partnership with the rest of the curriculum. We want every child to find their voice and become confident, articulate speakers and effective listeners.

Oracy develops pupils' confidence, articulacy and capacity to learn. Providing a high quality oracy education empowers students, regardless of their background, to find their voice for success in school and in life. Effective communication skills are vital for students to succeed in later life. Oracy is integral to our School Development Plan and is very much a work in progress and not the finished product.



What is Oracy?

'Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.
Oracy develops students' confidence, articulacy and capacity to learn.'
Voice 21.

At Gorse Hall, we believe oracy is…

- Engaging with others' ideas
- Reasoning together
- Listening to understand
- Changing people's minds
- Telling compelling stories
- Developing arguments
- Expressing yourself
- Speaking up for what you believe in

Why do we need to focus on oracy?

Leaders analysed a range of information, including child chats, learning walks and assessment data, and identified that pupils' oracy skills needed some improvement (for example, a number of pupils rarely speak in full sentences). In addition, research shows that

almost half of British employers, report that young people are entering the workplace with inadequate communication, presentation and interpersonal skills.

Our Key Actions for 2024-2026

- To provide explicit speaking and listening opportunities throughout the curriculum for all children
- To use the SHAPE acronym to teach the physical and linguistic aspects of oracy
- To use sentence stems to build confidence and ensure pupils are speaking in sentences
- To ensure staff are modelling good oracy skills and are confident in helping pupils to develop their own
- To build upon the early identification of speech and language issues in EYFS, and support early intervention

Opportunities we are currently experimenting with include:

- Weekly word of the week shared across school
- More opportunities for pupils to share/present their work to a variety of audiences
- Increasing oracy opportunities in all subjects, e.g. conducting surveys, role plays, hot seating, reading aloud, explaining concepts to a peer, giving instructions etc.
- A range of pupil voice committees who discuss and present to their peers
- Regular discussion with partners and groups in a range of subjects
- Key vocabulary made explicit in all curriculum areas
- The use of technology to record and share oracy activities
- Providing oracy homework to help families to support and encourage their child
- Providing staff training and development meetings where ideas and strategies are shared

The following websites provide further information about oracy and activities to try at home.

https://voice21.org/

https://noisyclassroom.com/

https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/