



Dear Parents/Carers,

This year, we are happy to be working with Voice 21, the national oracy charity. We will be working together to improve pupils' speaking, listening and communication skills in lessons and across subjects.

We are delighted to be joining the Voice 21 network as our leaders have seen, first hand, the impact that effective oracy can have on children's lives. We are excited to see it support our children develop their confidence, strengthen their understanding of effective communication and provide them access to a range of opportunities.

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through speaking, listening and communication. These skills are important for many reasons. They help improve school outcomes, including reading, writing and maths. Oracy can also boost confidence and help young people find and succeed in life beyond school.

Voice 21 works with over 1,200 schools across the country. In Voice 21 Oracy Schools, you will hear pupils solving problems collaboratively in maths and dissecting arguments in history, talking through conflicts in the playground and leading assemblies. We will be working with their expert team to develop a high-quality oracy education across our school life, including our culture, curriculum, and teaching and learning.

For updates on our oracy work, please check our website. For further information on Voice 21 please visit www.voice21.org

Oracy and SEND

Oracy plays an important role in helping all children thrive, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

A focus on oracy has been shown to support young people's social and emotional development, build confidence and foster a sense of belonging at school.

It's important to know that oracy education will support, not replace, any specialist support your child currently receives.

In fact, schools that prioritise oracy often find they are better able to recognise Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) earlier, helping to put the right support in place at the right time.