



OVERFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL SPEAKING & LISTENING STATEMENT

Speaking and listening skills are fundamental to children's progress in all areas of the curriculum, and the need for effective oral communication is vital to develop and enhance life skills.

Overfields values and seeks to develop children's speaking and listening skills as an integral part of the school curriculum and prepare children to establish positive relationships inside and outside the school with the ability to communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas confidently and successfully.

Our intention is:

- To develop children's speaking and listening skills through a wide range of opportunities.
- To value children's contributions during discussions.
- To encourage all children to listen carefully and actively, valuing and responding to others viewpoints and opinions.
- To enable children to speak audibly and confidently before an audience E.g. When performing their learning to their peers or when performing in school plays and assemblies.
- To help children understand how to adapt their use of language, varying use in relation to purpose and audience.
- To encourage children to develop proficiency in Standards English as well as promote a respect for other language and dialects.
- To raise children's attainment in writing through their ability to initially express themselves effectively orally in order to produce writing of a higher quality.

Implementation

Our 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. 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 - either as a whole class or smaller group sessions - encourages 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 as well as building confidence.

As a school we strive to maximise creative aspects of the curriculum and provide all pupils with speaking and listening opportunities through drama, role play, school trips, visits and visitors, class assemblies, school productions, vocabulary lessons and stimulating, innovative classroom teaching.

Impact

In a safe and encouraging environment, children develop into confident communicators who illuminate the goodness in each other by listening, speaking with kindness and empathy and explaining with clarity and confidence. 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.

Children leave Overfields having had access to a wide and varied range of high-quality speaking and listening experiences which will help them communicate effectively as they move to the next stage of their learning journey.