



Oracy Curriculum Intent at St John's Catholic Primary School, Trowbridge.

At St. John's Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide a curriculum that educates our children in a coherent and comprehensive way. An education that is expressed in a way that is unique to the school and inspired by the community within which it is placed. All the while, underpinned by robust systems of planning, resources and assessment.

Currently, there are 11 ethnic groups represented in the school community. The importance of Oracy is taken seriously as a pathway to equality, community and literacy.

The lowering of the profile of the Speaking and Listening Strand of the former National Literacy Strategy, after the introduction of the 2014 National Curriculum, has meant Oracy is often overlooked and the school wants to address this by weaving it into the curriculum and all aspects of school life to ensure its efficacy and status. The flexibility of oracy across all curriculum subjects allows for children to synthesise their knowledge and skills in personal and academic ways. Oracy enhances discussion about vocabulary which is an essential element in reading and comprehension.

As today's children use digital interfaces to communicate with others, Oracy is a skill that is key to developing and sustaining children's ability to articulate themselves and to discern what others articulate to them – focussing on the best that is thought and said. This ability will have a positive effect on children's future as adults in their further education and careers. There is a school-wide system of Restorative Justice which is a method used by all staff to overcome conflict between children using speaking and listening.

Within the context of SEND provision at St John's, Oracy is arguably the most accessible of all the curriculum subjects, as its foundation is a skill that all children have been attempting to master before they started school. This provides opportunities to children with SEND to begin their learning journey with successful outcomes and challenges, without the cognitive load of more formal skills taught at school. The many aspects of the four strands of Oracy – namely, Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive and Social and Emotional – also provide the SEND child, and all children, with a comprehensive set of skills to learn in order to progress in many other areas of the curriculum (e.g. developing vocabulary for reading and writing).

Children who are classed as EAL, are supported by an EMTAS teaching assistant who works closely with teachers to decide on appropriate support. This will include the pre-teaching of vocabulary or discussing a text to be used in class.

As a school that is committed to Catholic Social Teaching, the role of Speaking and Listening is an important component of enhancing the dignity of the person through articulating learning, beliefs and opinions. Also, in debating opinions and ideas about issues that affect them now and in the future, children can get a better idea of their rights and responsibilities.