

Speaking and Listening Vision Statement

What are we trying to achieve in Speaking and Listening?

At Purlwell we recognise that Speaking and listening skills are an important part of a pupil's development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. We know that spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. We strive to provide pupils with the tools they need to become fluent, confident speakers who are able to participate in discussions and listen respectfully to others. We aspire to ensure that all children know that their comments and opinions are valued and that their voices deserve to be heard. As a school we aim to reduce the language gap between children to ensure that all pupils are exposed to, can use and understand a rich vocabulary and have the opportunity to experience high quality interactions and conversations throughout the day.

How is the subject taught?

At Purlwell we pride ourselves in creating a language rich environment for pupils which is both seen and heard. Adults initiate/participate in high quality interactions with children, teaching them conversational expectations, vocabulary and sentence structure. In Early years adults spend much of their time in provision with pupil's, modelling the use of English, engaging in conversations, questioning and developing vocabulary, moving pupils learning and language forward.

English planning sequences ensure that children have a range of speaking and listening opportunities embedded within them, with adults modelling and opportunities for questioning. A range of activities such as hot seating, role play, conscience alley are carefully planned to provide opportunities for children to develop understanding, explore character, opinion and develop key communication skills.

Children are taught how they can develop good listening skills and are provided with many opportunities to demonstrate this within their learning. As a good listener, there is an expectation that they will be focussed and attentive, and respond appropriately to what they have heard.

At Purlwell, language and communication underpins our whole curriculum. Our children are immersed in language and literature and the development of spoken language and key vocabulary is an essential tool in unlocking learning opportunities across the curriculum. Teachers and subject leaders have worked together to create banks of subject based vocabulary to ensure all children have consistent and specific language taught in these lessons. This ensures that children in all classes are exposed to the same purposely planned vocabulary and are taught how to use it in context and also to other areas of learning.

Pupils in Nursery each have a vocabulary card which has topic based pictures to support them in developing their 'first 100 word' vocabulary. This are taught be parents and staff to ensure children have a good vocabulary foundation. These are provided to children throughout Purlwell if appropriate for the individual child.

Impact

Children will be able to speak fluently, in grammatically correct sentences and use relevant vocabulary. All pupils will be able to communicate their needs, express viewpoints and opinions confidently and purposefully. Pupils will become good active listeners who are able to hold conversations with peers and adults during which they are able to stay in topic and ask questions. Pupils will be exposed to a wide and rich vocabulary and which they can apply to their learning and experiences.