Misterton Primary and Nursery School

Oracy Policy

October 2026

Our Intent: Why We Teach Oracy

At Misterton Primary and Nursery School, we believe that Oracy is a vital life skill that empowers children to express themselves clearly, listen actively, and engage confidently in a range of social and academic contexts. Our Take Care ethos underpins everything we do, and Oracy plays a key role in helping children take care of themselves, others, and their learning.

We recognise that spoken language is central to learning and personal development. Through Oracy, children build vocabulary, deepen understanding, and develop the confidence to share ideas respectfully and effectively. We aim to ensure that every child, regardless of background or ability, has access to high-quality opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Intent Overview

- To give all children the best start by developing Oracy skills that open up educational, social, and future career opportunities.
- To nurture confident, articulate speakers who can present, perform, and debate in a variety of contexts.
- To embed Oracy across the curriculum, enabling deeper understanding through structured talk.
- To support children with SEND or additional needs to make strong progress in spoken communication through tailored support.
- To foster respectful, active listeners who can collaborate, challenge ideas constructively, and build on others' contributions.

Our Implementation: How We Teach Oracy

Dedicated Oracy Lessons

Children receive weekly Oracy lessons focused on:

- Listening skills
- Vocabulary development
- Discussion techniques
- Exploratory and presentational talk

Oracy Framework

We use the Voice 21 Oracy Framework, which breaks Oracy into four strands:

- Physical (voice, gesture, posture)
- Cognitive (content, structure, reasoning)
- Linguistic (vocabulary, grammar)
- Social & Emotional (confidence, empathy, collaboration)

This framework guides teaching, feedback, and assessment, and helps pupils reflect on their own speaking and listening.

Oracy Toolkit

To support effective talk, we use:
- Discussion Guidelines for safe and respectful conversations
- Sentence Stems to scaffold responses
- Talk Tactics to manage group roles
- Talk Protocols for self-governed discussions
- Talk Detectives to observe and evaluate talk
- Vocabulary Bullseye to build and apply rich vocabulary
- Flexible Groupings to suit different discussion purposes

Presentational Oracy

Children are taught presentational skills for assemblies, performances, and public speaking. They learn to use tone, pitch, pace, gesture, and body language effectively, and receive feedback from peers and teachers.

Oracy Across the Curriculum

Oracy is embedded in all subjects:
- English: drama, role play, discussion, presentations
- Maths: reasoning, justification, vocabulary building
- Science: enquiry, explanation, collaborative talk

Lessons are planned to be talk-rich, inclusive, and differentiated to ensure full participation.

Inclusion

Children with additional needs are supported through:
- Targeted scaffolding
- Small group work
- Speech and language interventions where needed

We ensure that every child has the opportunity to develop their voice and be heard.

Our Impact: What Oracy Achieves

Oracy is a visible and valued part of school life at Misterton. Pupils are confident speakers and active listeners, and the culture of talk is evident across classrooms and corridors.

Teachers assess progress using the Oracy Framework, and pupils build digital portfolios showcasing their speaking achievements. Assemblies and performances provide opportunities to celebrate Oracy and engage families in our learning journey.

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