

Portsmouth's Oracy Project (POP)

At **Portsmouth Primary School & Early Years**, we believe that spoken language is the foundation of learning, relationships, and self-expression. From Nursery through Year 6, we aim to foster a confident, inclusive culture of talk. Our vision: **every child leaves Portsmouth as an articulate, empathetic, and empowered communicator—ready to thrive in learning and in life.**

What Oracy Looks Like at Portsmouth Primary School and Early Years

The school is a founding member of the Portsmouth Oracy Hub, part of the wider Oracy South network. It is driven by the Voice 21 principles and research about the positive impact on the children of actively promoting oracy.

We play an active role in hub meetings, both sharing our own best practice and learning from the experiences of other schools.

- **Dedicated leadership.** We have named oracy leads (staff who champion, coordinate, and monitor oracy across the school).
 - **Curriculum-wide integration.** Oracy is not an add-on: it is woven into all subjects with structured talk opportunities, discussions, debates, and reflective dialogue.
 - **Scaffolded talk structures.** We use strategies such as talk partners, sentence stems, LABCQS (Like, Add, Build, Challenge, Question, Summarise) , and “Be a Whole Body Listener” to support all children, especially those with EAL (English as an Additional Language) and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
 - **Professional learning & networks.** All staff receive CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and access to external oracy hubs and networks (aligned with Voice 21 principles).
 - **Audience and purpose.** From internal class talk to performances, debates, community events, and use of technology, children present to real audiences and see the value of their speech.
 - **Monitoring & accountability.** We use learning walks, pupil voice, planning review, and termly internal review to ensure consistency, impact, and improvement.
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Why Oracy is a Priority

We know that children who struggle with spoken language often face challenges in behaviour, resilience, and writing. By centring oracy, we:

- Boost **vocabulary, clarity, and reasoning** across curriculum areas
- Enhance **listening skills and respect for alternate viewpoints**
- Improve **confidence, self-expression, and agency**

- Provide **equity**: supporting disadvantaged learners, EAL pupils, and those with speech difficulties
 - Support **better classroom talk, deeper thinking, and stronger written outcomes**
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What Success Looks Like

- **Consistent, high-quality oracy practice** across all classes
- **Progression in spoken language skills** evident year on year
- **Children more articulate** in expressing ideas in all subjects
- **Teachers confident** as oracy models and facilitators
- **Positive pupil voice feedback** about their speaking and listening experiences