



ORACY AT PENPOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Penpol School, we are committed to building and embedding a culture of oracy for all. Learning across the curriculum is driven by opportunities for talk which have been planned, designed, modelled, scaffolded and structured to enable all children to develop the skills needed to communicate effectively and with confidence. We want every child at Penpol School to find their voice and to be proud of it. Oracy develops children's confidence, fluency and readiness to learn. A high-quality oracy education empowers children, regardless of their background, to find their voice for success in school and in later life.

There are two core elements to oracy:

1. Learning through talk – quality of talk in the classroom
2. Learning to talk – explicit teaching of skills

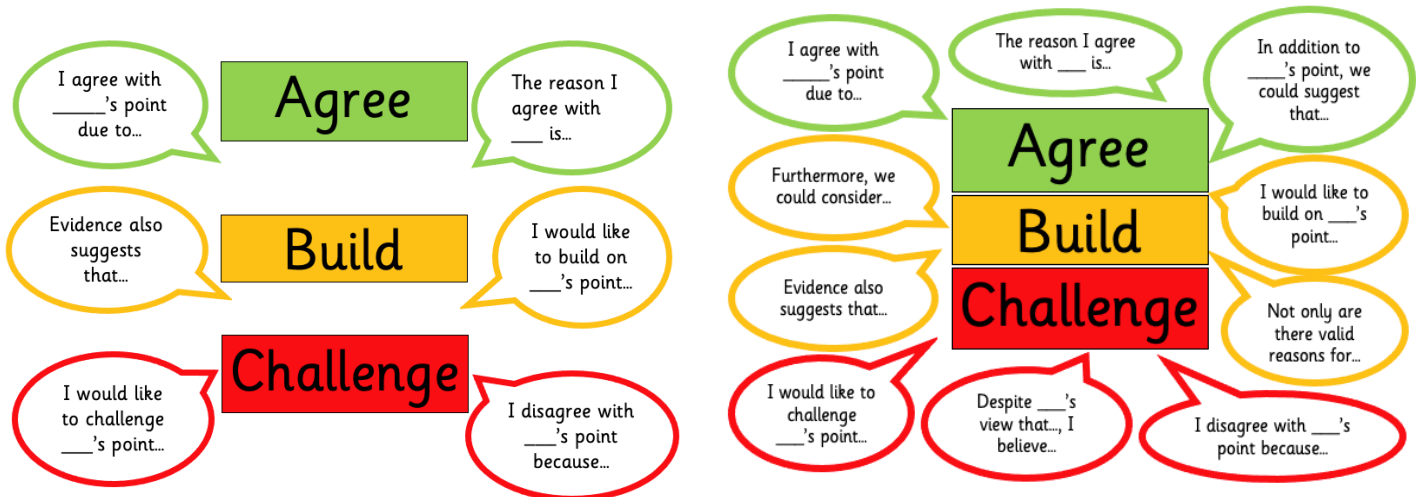
What is oracy?

Oracy is the ability to communicate effectively by articulating ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language. Our aim is to overcome communication barriers and enable children to be confident and effective communicators.

At the heart of good oracy is the **dialogic classroom**: a classroom rich in talk, in which questions are planned, peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded and the teacher uses talk skilfully to develop thinking. There are a range of opportunities for children to develop confidence in talk and to learn how to analyse and discuss effective communication skills.

Agree, Build, Challenge (ABC)

Children are familiar with and encouraged to use sentences stems to develop a structure to their speaking and listening skills. At Penpol, we use Agree, Build, Challenge (ABC) sentence stems to support pupils to access discussion.



Oracy at home

Opportunities for oracy do not end in the classroom. Talk at home is equally critical for children's healthy development. Time is precious at home and experts recommend squeezing in as many

opportunities to enjoy talking with your child as possible, for example during mealtimes, journeys, playing together and so on. The following ideas may help you to enjoy even more oracy at home.

Read aloud to each other

Facilitating reading at home, each day wherever possible, is the most powerful way in which you can support your child with their learning. Set aside some time and find somewhere quiet without any distractions wherever possible. Even confident readers benefit from being read to regularly as it can expose them to a broader range of vocabulary.

Use a range of vocabulary

Our typical spoken language tends to reuse the same words: sad, happy, nice, nasty, cross, little, big, run. Young children soak up words incredibly quickly, much more quickly than we are able to, so don't hold back! As adults, we know thousands of words that we can share with children – each one of us is a walking thesaurus! Try to use a range of words and phrases with similar, but slightly different, shades of meaning (synonyms). Encourage your children to use these words for themselves. Build interesting sentences with your child, for example: "what a miserable, gloomy day! Would you like a crunchy apple for snack?"

Engage them in a conversation

Oracy skills are all about speaking and listening. What better way is there to do both of these than by having a conversation? Try asking your child more specific questions to avoid the typical 'I can't remember' answer. Ask them what games they played at lunchtime, what made you feel happy today? Who made you laugh today? What was your favourite part of the day? What are you most proud of yourself for? It can help to narrow the focus so children know where to start when sharing their thoughts.

Activities that use instructions

One way to improve your child's active listening skills is by giving them activities which require them to follow instructions. Baking is one such activity where, if instructions are not followed carefully, very different results can arise.

Playing games

Would you rather...?
Eye spy
Simon Says

The alphabet game
Word association
Board games

Story Time

Get creative by inventing a family fairy tale! The first person starts with "Once upon a time..." and offers a complete sentence, then the second person adds to the story with their own sentence. This continues with each person until the story reaches a conclusion.

Songs and rhymes

Children enjoy songs and rhymes and they are extraordinarily effective for language development. By making 'mistakes' while singing, you are helping your children to develop their listening skills.

If you would like more information or have any questions at all, please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Best
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"Penpol pupils are **curious, creative and courageous** learners. Our school community believes in **authenticity** as the foundations of **deep-rooted** learning. Through our **rich and relevant** curriculum, we nurture **community-minded, forward-facing** international citizens of the future."