

THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM AT WOODSTOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL: SPEAKING AND LISTENING

SPEAKING AND LISTENING IN OUR SCHOOL

The National Curriculum for England and Wales says that spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. The quality and variety of language that children hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar, and their understanding for reading and writing. Therefore, we see it as an integral part of pupil's learning experience in our school and ensure its provision across all subjects in the Curriculum as well as an explicit part of English learning.

Children across the school are experiencing a range of opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills through:

- Role play and drama
- Small world play
- Reading aloud as part of a small group or whole class
- Reciting poetry
- Presenting as part of a group, pair or individually
- Big question research projects
- Performing poetry
- Making use of the amphitheatre during lessons and during playtimes
- Giving instructions
- Becoming Playground Leaders
- Explaining own understanding or assisting peers in further developing theirs
- Celebration assemblies, and collective worship celebrations



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING IN SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME

The development of spoken language is generally contextualised in our curriculum and can be further supported through the homework set by teachers. But, in the family home, speaking and listening is a continuous process and can be further developed by encouraging any of the following:

- **CONVERSATIONS** in the car, during bedtime routines or over dinner- these are precious moments in all family homes and their value should not be underestimated. Here, children develop the art of conversation, can talk freely about any challenges they may have faced during the school day and appreciate the need for turn taking and listening during the process. Any misunderstandings can be ironed out through these conversations, with adults guiding children in making sense of the world.
- **DISCUSSION** about a book, film or event. Children can often misunderstand the underlying messages in a story and these discussions allow us to make sure that children do understand fully. These skills can often then be transferred to other aspects of life, such as reading situations and people and understanding reactions and feelings of others.
- **PERFORMING** songs, poems, stories or presenting to a family audience. Children will often feel comfortable in doing this in their own home before they will in the classroom. Confidence develops as children become used to hearing their own presenting style, which is often more formal than everyday speech. Wherever possible, children should be encouraged to do this in a safe and supportive environment as early as possible.
- **TEAMWORK** in any situation. As part of a family, children are expected to use, apply and refine aspects of the group work skills used in school. These include collaboration, decision making, problem-solving, communication, persuasion and expressing an opinion. These skills are called upon in most family situations including going on holiday, having a party or just sharing dinner.
- **GRAMMAR** use begins at a very early age. Any support that we give children to help them speak correctly impacts on their development as well-rounded individuals, as well as on their written work and understanding of reading. The home is where this begins, before children even join us in school, and correcting children in the misuse of language is an ongoing and ever important parental duty. In school we do this with a gentle hand, without judgement or ridicule. We would encourage all parents to continue this in the home too.

USING WEBSITES/GAMES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LEARNING IN SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Board games, card games and any good old-fashioned family games will develop a child's speaking and listening skills. Our favourites are Monopoly Deal and Dobble which are generally suitable for most ages, can be easily taken anywhere and are quick games to learn and enjoy.

Anything that is a talking point for children - reading a good book, looking at a piece of art, going to an event, watching a film or constructing something amazing together.

Making sensible use of the mobile technology available to us all - apps such as Dictation and iMovie are both purposeful ways to get children speaking clearly for a purpose and an audience.

Research websites are a great resource when used correctly. Encourage your child to be clear about the questions they want to answer before beginning the Google crawl!