Winslow CE School Oracy Policy

Vision Statement

Our vision is '**Let your light shine'**. The rainbow symbolises God's unconditional love for each individual. We seek to reflect that light in all we do: in our community, both local and wider, our communication, both word and action, with curiosity and courage, and with care and compassion for everyone, inspiring a love of learning.

Central to this vision is our commitment to empowering every pupil to use their voice. We believe that all children should develop the confidence to reason, negotiate, present and explore ideas that strengthen their learning across the curriculum and prepare them for life in modern Britain. A strong focus on oracy helps pupils build meaningful relationships, talk through issues, express their feelings and recognise that their voice holds value.

We also understand that effective communication relies on effective listening. In a thriving and compassionate society, people listen not only with the ears but with the heart. High-quality oracy education plays a vital role in increasing life chances.

At Winslow CofE our Vision for Oracy is to:

- Equip children with the communication skills needed to express themselves clearly and confidently
- Teach turn-taking and respectful dialogue, preparing them for life in modern society
- Ensure every child is heard and listened to
- Provide an inclusive approach that values all voices
- Remove barriers for our most vulnerable pupils
- Enrich and broaden children's vocabulary
- Provide opportunities for children to express and articulate themselves for different purposes, preparing them with essential future skills

Through our Christian vision and commitment to oracy, we aim to enable every child to shine their light, now and into the future.

Our Aims

Oracy is at the heart of all learning at Winslow Church of England School. Children will be taught both to talk to enable them to discuss, perform, debate and express themselves in a range of contexts, for a range of purposes.

Children will learn to listen carefully to others, building on their views or showing empathy as appropriate. Opportunities to learn active listening skills will become increasingly advanced as children move through the school. This will be supported by a culture which celebrates a range of accents and dialects, including those who use non-standard varieties of English.

We recognise that oracy in the classroom should be seen, by both teachers and children, as a valuable activity. Oracy plays an important role in collaborative learning activities, starting from when the children enter Early Years. Our aim is to enable children to improve their levels of oracy so that they can all communicate effectively and confidently in front of any type of audience. These skills are encouraged in every area of our curriculum as good communication skills can enhance every type of learning.

Many of our children start early school life without the oracy skills relevant for their age. We strive to develop spoken language skills through the taught curriculum, the hidden curriculum, playtimes and lunchtimes, extra-curricular activities and the whole ethos of the school.

- Oracy to be at the heart of all teaching and learning activities
- To create opportunities for children to speak with confidence to different audiences
- Encourage respectful and productive relationships
- To ensure that standards of oracy improve as children progress through the school
- To nurture children' pride in their voices, creating opportunities for them to reflect on and share their own linguistic repertoires
- To provide a range of interventions and support for children with identified language needs

We want the children at Winslow:

- To develop oracy skills to be able to communicate effectively in a range of contexts; understanding others, being understood and expressing themselves effectively.
- To develop oracy skills to be able to articulate views and express feelings constructively and appropriately.
- To be open-minded, to value the contribution of others and to take account of their views.
- To appreciate the diversity of languages, dialects and accents in the school and value the experience and contributions of children with a wide variety of linguistic backgrounds.
- To understand the progress they have made in their oracy skills.

We ask that parents:

- Actively support Winslow's oracy, understanding the importance of oracy skills to success in and beyond the classroom.
- Support children by discussing different subjects and areas of interest at home.

Our staff will:

- Provide a role model to consistently demonstrate high standards of oracy to all children.
- Challenge linguistic prejudice and encourage children to recognise the richness and diversity of communication and language in their classrooms and communities.
- Ensure that oracy is at the heart of all teaching and learning activities.
- Develop the oral skills of children.
- Create a culture of talk where every voice is valued.

We will support children with additional needs by:

- Identify intervention strategies, assess and monitor children with speech and language needs.
- Support children with additional needs to take a full and active part in spoken language activities at a level appropriate for their needs.
- Advise teachers when setting targets which are then worked on individually or in small groups.
- Liaise and jointly plan with subject teachers to meet the individual needs of all children.

Governors will:

- Support the implementation and development of the Winslow's drive to improve standards of Oracy for all children.