

An Overview of Speaking and Listening at St Michael's



The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you plans to give you hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29 verse 11

At St. Michael's School, our pupils love to share their ideas. We help them to think about how they communicate with others and how to express themselves effectively. Listening to others and developing ideas through the spoken word is a key part of effective learning. Pupils need to be able to articulate their thoughts using a wide range of vocabulary, in order to write well. Reading is a key part of this as well. Parents and carers play a hugely important role in the development of their child's spoken word. Reading and conversation at home, as well as talking about experiences can really enhance a child's vocabulary and confidence.

'The way we communicate with others and ourselves ultimately determines the quality of our lives,' Tony Robbins.

At St Michaels Primary School, we believe that it is vital that our pupils have experience of and develop a rich command of spoken vocabulary and language so that they express their opinions and articulate their feelings in a wide range of situations. We intend to develop their listening skills so that they can soak up the many forms of language and literature around them and respond appropriately in conversations, discussions, in answering questions and following instructions. Good speaking and listening will help develop their group participation and social skills and develop their confidence to speak audibly and present their ideas in front of different audiences.

An effective command of speaking and listening feeds directly into effective reading and writing and all forms of meaningful communication.

In English lessons, there are planned opportunities for pupils to develop oracy so that they can confidently articulate their ideas, thoughts feelings and opinions. Emphasis is placed on promoting vocabulary and ensuring that our pupils have the opportunity to use and hear challenging and appropriate vocabulary across the curriculum. Staff model formal language, high level vocabulary, good sentence grammar in conversations with pupils. Pupils are taught how to listen, and active listening is taught and modelled across the curriculum through carefully planned activities that develop good listening. All pupils are encouraged to work in groups and use collaborative speaking and listening opportunities during learning time and worship. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in drama and performances and have additional voice through the school and spiritual council.

We measure the impact of the curriculum through assessment for learning opportunities, pupil voice and learning observation with a focus on specific criteria. Through these forms of continuous and robust assessment, individuals are identified and nurtured to ensure personal ambitions are fostered and encouraged. As a result, we aim for pupils to be confident, articulate and enthusiastic about their learning and keen to share their knowledge with a range of audiences.

