

Speaking & Listening

Intent

At St Mary's we understand that spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing.

We nurture children's speaking and listening skills through ensuring that all children participate in discussions where all ideas are valued.

Our intent is to encourage all children to express their ideas confidently and clearly in all aspects of school life.

Implementation

From the start of Early years children are exposed to a language rich environment, where teachers ask open ended questions to support the development of ideas. Throughout every school day, they are encouraged to speak in partners, groups and in front of the whole class. In all subjects, children are constantly encouraged to ask questions, give opinions and justify arguments. Peer discussion and feedback ensures that, not only are children confident speakers, but understand the importance of being a good listener.

Through Talk 4 Writing children are encouraged to become confident speakers. This is supported through orally retelling story maps, drama work, presentations and plays.

Children learn and recite stories and poems with good expression and intonation. They are regularly given the chance to orally rehearse ideas for writing. Teachers and children become storytellers.

Teacher's model higher level vocabulary within their speech and expanding children's vocabulary is a key focus from EYFS. Subject specific vocabulary is embedded across the curriculum, through teacher modelling, in context. Contextual learning helps children to understand new words and supports them in including them in their work. We are keen to model the correct grammar in speech and encourage children to do this in their use of spoken and written language.

Children who have English as an additional language are supported by EMTAS. We offer a comprehensive speech and language programme for those children who need extra support and this is facilitated by the North Tyneside Speech and Language Team.

Impact

Children leave St Mary's School with the ability to articulate their ideas whether it is to a small group or a whole class. They understand the difference between formal and informal speech and make the choice of which one to use correctly. The children are respectful of each other's thoughts and ideas and they are good listeners and engaging speakers.