

# Oracy across the Curriculum

## What does Oracy look like at Maltby Lilly Hall Academy?

At Maltby Lilly Hall Academy oracy is a constant thread through our curriculum. We believe spoken language is fundamental to the achievement of all children and our aim is for children to leave us as effective speakers and listeners. Oracy is key a priority from when children begin their learning journey with us in EYFS up to when they leave us in Year 6 and involves learning through talk and learning to talk.

## Why is Oracy important?

Oracy is important for children's cognitive development and learning at school. It plays a crucial part in their preparation for participation in the wider world. Enabling children to become good listeners and communicators in different circumstances and formalities gives them an advantage through childhood into adulthood. Oracy also helps develop vocabulary – children who are 'word conscious' and have a wide range of language can then develop their ability to use it effectively and appropriately when communicating.

“Talk is the most powerful tool of communication in the classroom and it's fundamentally central to the acts of teaching and learning.”  
-Professor Frank Hardman

## Examples of Learning at Maltby Lilly Hall Academy

We aim to provide children with opportunities to practice different types of talk at MLHA: exploratory and presentational, spontaneous and planned, individual and group as well as providing different contexts for listening and responding. Each class has created discussion guidelines which are displayed and adhered to in the classroom to help develop good listeners and contributors in discussions. Oracy protocols such as 'thumbs in' have been explored in classrooms – practicing turn taking and improving group discussions. Use of oracy roles in the classroom has allowed children to explore different ways of contributing to a discussion. Displays at MLHA show clear topic-linked vocabulary (tier 2 and 3) and specific vocabulary displays in classrooms aim to develop a child's 'word consciousness'.