

English: Speaking and Listening

Intent

At Harvills Hawthorn, our mission is for all of our pupils to be the very best they can be. Speaking and listening is central to the Harvills curriculum and is developed from EYFS throughout our school, across the curriculum. We nurture children's speaking and listening skills through a variety of approaches: exploratory play, story time, hot-seating, poetry competitions and through collaborative learning. We develop these skills so that our children are capable of expressing their own ideas clearly and confidently, in a safe and supportive environment, in all aspects and areas of their school life and into their future.

Implementation

At Harvills Hawthorn Primary School, we pride ourselves on the consistent approach to teaching and learning that can be observed across all phases of school. This is achieved through our commitment to cutting edge CPD and quality first teaching on a daily basis. Expectations of staff and pupils are high, resulting in good or outstanding progress in all phases. There is a universal understanding of what outstanding teaching, learning and assessment should entail. These strategies are consistently used throughout school and it is the expectation of leadership that all lessons will include a variety of these to enable learners to reach their full potential. Active learning is essential in all aspects of the lesson. All staff use the same terminology so that learners develop a knowledge and understanding of the different ways they learn.

At Harvills, we believe outstanding teaching, learning and assessment must include the following:

1. Challenge for all
2. Collaborative learning
3. Assessment for learning
4. Questioning
5. Progression within lessons and books
6. Learning behaviours

We are working hard to promote our pupils' English and ensure that they all achieve to the very best of their ability. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and often. English is fundamental to all subjects. Consequently, we believe that all stakeholders have a role to play in supporting and developing our pupils' English skills to ensure they can communicate effectively in today's society.

Speaking and listening at Harvills Hawthorn

All staff in our school model the use of higher-level vocabulary within their speech and expanding children's vocabulary is a key focus from EYFS.

Oracy is embedded throughout the school. From the beginning, children are actively encouraged to speak and listen. Opportunities are given for school, class, small group and individual discussion, expression of ideas and presentations.

Children are actively encouraged to do the following:

- listen and respond with constructive comments, questions or answers in a variety of speaking and listening activities, developing wide ranging and suitable vocabulary;
- listen and to follow instructions and to relay messages accurately;
- plan and discuss work co-operatively where appropriate;
- develop social skills and good manners, showing courtesy to each other and visitors.

Teachers model subject specific vocabulary in context so that it is embedded across the curriculum. Contextual learning helps pupils to understand new words and supports them in including them in their work. This model is reflected in reading lesson, where pupils are given the chance to explore unfamiliar vocabulary and expand their knowledge of words. Each week, children are introduced at a new tier 2 word that is discussed in detail. The expectation is that both staff and children use this vocabulary in context when speaking and writing. We model the correct grammar in speech and encourage pupils to self-correct their use of spoken and written language. Pupils are regularly given the chance to orally rehearse ideas for writing.

Drama is used across the curriculum to explore ideas and engage pupils in their learning. This gives them the chance to embed vocabulary in shared activities, embedding the use of topic specific language.

Impact

Harvills Hawthorn truly believe that speaking and listening give our pupils the basic skills they need to communicate with the world around them. Pupils are given a range of opportunities to develop these skills, in a safe and stimulating environment. The wide range of speaking and listening activities – which are weaved throughout our curriculum – help to develop ideas, vocabulary and confidence, as the more we talk, the more we pick up on different words that other people use. By the time they leave us, we aim for our pupils to have the fluency and confidence to use language to convey information, ideas comments and personal views in a socially acceptable manner appropriate to the purpose and audience.

