



# **Speaking and Listening at Harvills Hawthorn**

## **Intention**

At Harvills Hawthorn, our mission is for all of our pupils to be the very best they can be. It is our intention to provide them with a high-quality English education, through the teaching of speaking and listening.

Speaking and listening is central to the Harvills curriculum and is developed across the curriculum. We nurture children's speaking and listening skills throughout the curriculum using a variety of approaches including exploratory play, story time and collaborative learning. We develop these skills so that our children are capable of expressing their own ideas clearly and confidently.

## **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, research-based CPD in addition to 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 great 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 great teaching, learning and assessment must include the following:

- Understanding the Content
- Creating a Supportive Environment
- Maximising Opportunities to Learn
- Activating Hard Thinking (building ratio)

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. All children are expected to follow our



school's non-negotiables for presentation. This includes a focus on learning to write in the cursive script.

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

Oracy is embedded throughout the school. From Nursery, 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, relaying 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 these in their own writing. This model is reflected in whole class reading sessions, where pupils are given the chance to explore unfamiliar vocabulary and expand their knowledge of words.

Staff model the correct grammar in speech and encourage pupils to self-correct their use of the 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 and use topic specific language in context. As a school, we have adopted Royal Shakespeare Company Rehearsal Room techniques.

## **Impact**

Teaching speaking and listening for a range of purposes gives our pupils the skills they need to communicate effectively in different situations. 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.

Ultimately, we aim to fulfil our school's vision: to prepare our children for the next stage of their lives to enable them to contribute positively to their community.