

Speaking and Listening at St Anthony's

Intent:

At St Anthony's we believe that every child should become confident, articulate and informed speakers as well as being effective listeners asking good questions. These skills are crucial in building relationships and being ready for society. It's a vital part of our curriculum right from EYFS through the prime area of 'Communication and Language' to Year 6.

Implementation:

- Discussions and questioning throughout the curriculum.
- Talk partners are used within classes – learning to take turns, identifying who is holding the conversation and how to judge this.
- Modelling of high-quality vocabulary.
- Exposure of high-quality vocabulary throughout the curriculum.
- Lots of opportunities for children to share their ideas, sharing and talking through their ideas and knowledge.
- Cross-Curricular opportunities for plays, debates and performances.

Impact:

- Children are able to speak confidently using Standard English
- Children have a wide range of vocabulary
- Children understand the 'rules' of social interaction – taking turns, identifying who is holding the conversation and how to judge when this changes.
- Children to understand non-verbal cues, voice, volume, eye contact, pitch, pauses
- Listening to longer stories and answer questions about them

Ways to support at home:

- **Reading aloud to your child** – reading to children is so powerful. Not only does it build their self-esteem but develops their vocabulary and feeds their imagination. Reading books beyond their own reading ability really helps to build upon new vocabulary and understand the structure of language.
- **Talking about your child's day** – Often when you ask your child 'what did you do today?' they may say that they can't remember. Try to find different ways to talk about what they've been up to. Eating your evening meal as a family chatting is a great way to encourage conversation or in the car.
- **Going on a nature walk.** – Going on a walk around the local environment, getting your child to listen carefully to noises they may hear. Also describing what they can see such as birds etc.
- **Phoning a friend or family member.** Making a phone call develops your child's speaking and listening skills and will also build on their confidence.
- **Signing up for a club** – Extracurricular clubs are a great opportunity for your child to talk with different people outside of their home and school environment. It will introduce them to different vocabulary.

Websites for support speaking and listening skills at home:

- The noisy classroom has a range of games and ideas to try at home with your children aiming to keep kids talking
<https://noisyclassroom.com/category/keep-kids-talking/>
- <https://www.onceuponapicture.co.uk/>
- The National Literacy Trust's Words for Life programme has lots of great tips and activity ideas to encourage speaking, reading and writing skills in children from birth to 11 years. <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>