St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School

Speaking and Listening Policy 2022

Intent Statement

**Speaking & Listening** is integral to all learning. It underpins the development of reading and writing. Listening skills are continuously taught from EYFS, as is confidence and competence in spoken language. Due to very low starting points, a strong focus is needed on communication skills including: the ability to use and understand vocabulary; express ideas and pose questions. From the outset, parents are valued as key partners, whom we seek to support and educate; their influence on their child’s success is unquestionable. Pupils are taught to explain their understanding of books and to prepare their ideas before their write. They consider their audience and purpose and adapt the content and formality accordingly as they progress through the school. Such skills are carefully planned through the English curriculum, including challenging and progressive vocabulary.

**Implementation Statement**

**The Speaking & Listening – what it looks like from EYFS to Y6**

In the**Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS),**Speaking and Listening activities are at the centre of teaching and learning. Adults model how to speak and interact in all areas of the provision. Children gain confidence speaking in many different contexts, including: performing poems, drama and role play, weather reporting, sharing weekend and holiday news and much, much more! This focus on talk follows through into **Key Stage One**, where children develop and use their speaking and listening skills across all curriculum subjects. Within English, this continues to include, poetry, drama and role play, oral composition ahead of writing and performance. Within **Key Stage Two**, this repertoire continues to expand to include: critical discussion, engaging in debate, giving speeches, performing plays. All pupils listen to and learn poems. From Year 1, children learn to recite three poems each year. Poems are shared during assemblies, giving the children an audience to perform to. All of this is a key focus within English lessons, the wider curriculum and beyond.

**The Curriculum**

The Lancashire Learning and Progression Steps (LAPS) are followed from Reception to Y6. The LAPS are based on the National Curriculum and are broken down into key learning statements.

**Adaptive Teaching**

Lessons are structured so that pupils can access the same learning intention. There are many ways that adaptive teaching can provide a scaffold for a child – this could be support from an adult, a speaking prompt, additional vocabulary or peer support to name a few.

Quality first teaching is the key, with pupils remaining in class with their peers and their teacher.

If a pupil is falling behind where they should be, a number of interventions are available including TALC, WELCOMM and Speech & Language sessions.

Pupils with complex SEND, have learning tailored to meet their next steps in learning. The Acorn Classroom provides an environment which is smaller than a typical classroom. The class size is also much smaller too.

**Impact Statement**

Due to socio-economic deprivation, many pupils who begin in nursery are preforming well below their national counterparts. The curriculum is therefore carefully structured to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.

Communication needs are addressed throughout the day, with carefully tailored intervention of TALC and WELCOMM.

On-going formative assessment ensures that teachers know what pupils do, and do not understand. Teaching is adapted accordingly.

**Leadership and Management**

Here at St. Thomas’ English is such a priority that it warrants a team of leaders. This includes two phonic leads, two reading leads and two team leaders. A thorough CPD program ensures regular training, mentoring and coaching; this is extremely thorough for ECTs and teachers new to the school. A comprehensive **monitoring** system allows leaders to determine the impact of teaching and learning, measuring whether pupils know more and remember more.

**To be reviewed December 2023 by D.Abbott**