Oracy

What Children Learn in Oracy

At Bocking, children learn to use spoken language effectively to express their ideas, explain their thinking, listen actively and communicate confidently with different audiences. Our oracy curriculum develops four key strands: physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social and emotional skills.

Children learn to speak clearly using appropriate volume, tone, posture and gestures. They develop their ability to organise ideas, give reasons and ask questions. They also build their vocabulary, use increasingly sophisticated sentence stems and work collaboratively by taking turns, building on others' contributions and disagreeing respectfully.

Through our Talk Tactics, children learn to instigate discussions, challenge ideas, build on contributions, clarify understanding, summarise viewpoints and probe thinking. These skills are practised across the curriculum, enabling children to use talk as a tool for learning as well as a way to communicate their knowledge and ideas.

How Skills Progress Across the School

Our oracy progression document maps the development of speaking and listening skills from Reception to Year 6, with skills introduced and revisited throughout the year. In Reception, children develop the foundations of communication by speaking audibly, responding to others, taking turns and expressing simple ideas.

In Key Stage 1, children build confidence in small-group and whole-class discussions. They learn to use sentence stems, justify opinions with reasons, ask relevant questions and begin to summarise and respond to different viewpoints.

As children move through Key Stage 2, they develop greater independence and sophistication. They learn to challenge and clarify ideas, use subject-specific vocabulary, adapt their language to different audiences and purposes, and support their arguments with evidence.

By Year 6, children are expected to lead and sustain discussions, evaluate their own and others' viewpoints, use formal language appropriately, ask probing questions and deliver confident presentations to larger audiences. The six Talk Tactics are introduced progressively, allowing children to build on prior learning and apply increasingly complex oracy skills across subjects and contexts.