

Speaking and listening

Being able to communicate ideas and emotions clearly and confidently, and listen to, understand and respect others are essential life-long skills enabling children to fully become members of society. Also, good speaking and listening skills enable children to clarify their thinking as well as organise their ideas for writing.

From the moment children become a part of the Blockley community, in all subjects, every day, children are encouraged to, and practise, explaining their ideas, thoughts, and opinions in a clear respectful manner.

All children learn how to challenge, or build upon what their peers have said and to ask questions to check their understandings. In this way, children gain confidence in their own oracy skills as they learn how to collaborate, debate and clarify their own thinking.

Importantly, opportunities are offered throughout each child's time at Blockley to speak at and/or present/perform their own/and others work within the class and in front of wider audiences during sharing assemblies, and Christmas and other performances. Children in Year 6 are also encouraged to enter the Rotary Club's annual Youth Speaks competition.

Children are expected to speak fluently in full sentences in a clear understandable manner. Teaching staff support the learning of Standard English through modelling; for example, resaying something back correctly to a child. Children are also guided in their use of other communication skills such as choosing the correct register according to who they are speaking with, looking at the person that they are speaking to or listening to and using the correct tone and volume according to the situation.