



School strengths

A vision for oracy is clearly articulated to all stakeholders in St Mary's Catholic Academy community. There is a measured approach to establishing a high quality oracy education, consistently planning, doing and reviewing at every step, from launching the vision and mission with colleagues to implementing a suite of strategies to enhance classroom teaching and learning. Recognising and celebrating oracy is prevalent across all aspects of school life, and students, families and Governors are an integral part of the process. 'Shout outs' have become part of acts of worship, sharing praise for one another's learning, progress and skills - a delightful addition to the traditional assembly which engages and includes all voices. Through this ongoing process, students are enabled to become confident communicators who will flourish and achieve.

Recommendations

In order to cement a high quality oracy education you should:

- Continue to develop your approach to student understanding of oracy by introducing self and peer assessment approaches.
- Build on the assembly 'shout outs' to introduce other dialogic elements into all assemblies.
- Taking the toolkit of oracy strategies that you have introduced so far, develop how oracy skills are both explicitly taught and implicitly developed in sequences of learning. You might map out the type of talk that is most relevant to different subjects, going beyond the vocabulary to thinking and speaking like a specialist.

Area of excellence

As a school you have clearly invested in valuing every voice. As evidenced in the core subjects of science and mathematics, significant work has been done to develop students' linguistic ability, including improving vocabulary through oracy and developing cogent, sustained verbal responses which are considered, structured and clear. Your focus on enabling students with speech, language and communication needs to access and engage in oracy is commendable.



Has an ambitious vision for oracy

The vision for oracy is long-held and shared by the whole community at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Embedding high quality oracy into both classroom practice and across the wider curriculum and culture of the school are key drivers in enhancing students learning and life chances. Leaders have selected an effective suite of measures to sit alongside oracy to do this.



Builds a culture of oracy

By reshaping one of key pillars of the Catholic school day - assembly - a culture of encouraging and celebrating communication is beginning to pay dividends. Additionally, families share in the learning and celebration with termly presentations led by the students themselves. Rather than being a passive audience, families play their part in shaping their child's journey.



Has a sustained and wide-ranging curriculum for oracy

Students and teachers have a clear understanding of what constitutes effective oracy against the four strands of the Oracy Framework for their year group, and are supported to make progress to meet and exceed those standards. Oracy outcomes are becoming increasingly established across the curriculum as a means to showcase skill as well as subject knowledge.



Recognises oracy as central to learning

Leaders have taken a methodical and consistent approach to establishing oracy routines in all teaching. Ongoing professional development that reflects on progress and seeks to consolidate before trying something new is a strength. Oracy is continually placed at the heart of teaching and learning, growing the knowledge and understanding of staff and students.



Is accountable for the impact of oracy

Regular monitoring is a cornerstone of St Mary's Catholic School's approach. Through drop ins and listening walks, oracy leaders identify areas of strength and development, informing implementation planning and next steps for professional development. In continuing this methodical approach, a high quality oracy education will be assured over time.

As a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence, you'll now be offered exclusive opportunities including participating in network opportunities; engaging in research and innovation projects; hosting Oracy Schools; attending peer reviews with other Voice 21 Oracy Centres of Excellence and speaking at national events.