

# Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence

## Report for Mount Pleasant Junior School



### School strengths

Mount Pleasant Junior School's vision for oracy weaves through the fabric of school life and is understood and embodied by staff, pupils and parents alike. Parent engagement is a real strength at the school: parents are encouraged to share their voice and learn about oracy through workshops, open mornings and celebration events. Oracy is a valued pedagogical tool for teaching and learning, and the school has dedicated time to embed the use of the Oracy Framework to elevate learning. Oracy skills are taught explicitly across the curriculum: pupils refer to specific oracy strands when they talk about their learning, and they demonstrate these skills confidently when speaking. Questioning drives the oracy-rich curriculum, which offers a breadth of opportunities for pupils to learn through talk. Focus strands and talk tactics are taught and contextualised on a termly basis for each year group, ensuring a buildable progression of skills for all pupils across the school.

### Recommendations

Mount Pleasant Junior School recognises that their next priority is to embed oracy in the Infant School to support transition to the Junior site. We recommend the following to support implementation in the Infant School:

- School leaders across both sites to work together to ensure that an oracy-rich curriculum is planned and enacted so that oracy progression, including a breadth of opportunities for talk (outcomes, purposes and audiences) is evident from EYFS up to Year 6.
- The oracy team to consider how pupil roles (which are so well embedded in the Junior School) could support the development of oracy at the Infant site.

### Area of excellence

Inclusion and fostering a sense of belonging lie at the heart of the culture for oracy at Mount Pleasant Junior School. This includes the creative ways in which they involve the wider community to build a shared understanding of the importance of oracy, whilst celebrating the diversity of languages and dialects that each family bring. The school provides wide-ranging opportunities for pupils to share their voice: the 'Responsible Roles' encourage pupils to embody the culture for talk and help to drive change in the setting. For example, the Welcoming Committee wear language badges and use their diverse linguistic repertoires to support children who are new to English, and the Oracy Ambassadors (who are exceptional models for talk across the school) teach their peers valuable oracy skills during assemblies and class sessions.

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### Has an ambitious vision for oracy

The vision for Mount Pleasant Junior School is rooted in equity of opportunity for all pupils, with a particular focus on English Literacy Learners. The vision for all learners to understand that 'their voice matters' underpins the curriculum intent and design, with clear reference to how learning to and through talk supports pupils to articulate their knowledge and understanding.



### Builds a culture of oracy

Oracy is celebrated deliberately by all members of the school community, including parents and governors, through certificates, stickers, and green slips. Oracy is made visible through the school website, the range of oracy assemblies, and parental events. All pupils are given opportunities to use their voice to make meaningful changes to school life, reaffirming the vision.



### Has a sustained and wide-ranging curriculum for oracy

The curriculum intent at Mount Pleasant underpins their vision for oracy. The curriculum is driven through macro and micro questions that are interrogated through purposefully planned exploratory and presentational talk opportunities. The richness of linguistic repertoires of the school community are valued and celebrated across the curriculum.



### Recognises oracy as central to learning

Oracy is seen as a pedagogical tool at Mount Pleasant. Pupils work in 'Talking Fours' across the setting to foster connection and promote positive speaking and listening models for all learners. Scaffolds for oracy, such as Talk Tokens, are employed and removed appropriately. The Oracy Framework is used effectively to develop pupils' progress in oracy over time.



### Is accountable for the impact of oracy

Mount Pleasant have adopted a wide range of approaches to measuring impact, monitoring oracy regularly in collaboration with pupils, staff and the wider school community. Examples include: staff appraisals, pupil voice, parent questionnaires and external visits. Leaders are driven to use these reflections to inform their actions to improve and refine the oracy provision.

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