

Every Voice Matters

Building confident speakers, attentive listeners and successful learners at Appleton Academy

At Appleton Academy, we are proud to be a **Voice 21 School**. We believe that speaking and listening are just as important as reading and writing. Through our oracy programme, we help pupils develop the confidence, vocabulary and communication skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

What is Oracy?

Oracy is the ability to express ideas clearly, listen carefully to others and engage in meaningful discussion.

By explicitly teaching these skills, we help pupils to:

- Speak confidently and respectfully
- Explain and justify their thinking
- Work effectively with others
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Build self-confidence

What Does Oracy Look Like at Appleton?

Across the curriculum, pupils regularly take part in:

- Structured classroom discussions
- Debate and questioning activities
- Collaborative group work
- Presentations and performances
- Opportunities to explain and justify their ideas

Teachers provide clear talk routines and discussion structures so that every pupil has a voice.

Why Does Oracy Matter?

Strong communication skills help pupils:

- Achieve more academically
- Improve their confidence and self-esteem
- Build positive relationships
- Prepare for further education and employment

Research shows that when pupils talk effectively, they learn more effectively.

How Can Parents Help?

You can support your child's oracy development by:

- Talking regularly about their learning and interests
- Asking open questions such as *"Why do you think that?"* and *"Can you explain your reasoning?"*
- Encouraging them to listen carefully to different viewpoints
- Discussing books, films, current events and everyday experiences

Even a few minutes of meaningful conversation each day can make a real difference.

Working Together

As a Voice 21 School, we want every child to feel confident expressing themselves, sharing ideas and contributing positively to their community.

At Appleton Academy, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to find their voice and use it with confidence.