

Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence Report for Samarès Primary School



School strengths

The ambitious vision and step-by-step approach to implementation are a strength at Samarès Primary School. At all points, the needs of the students have been carefully considered to make sure they can develop the oracy skills they need for learning and life. Coming back to the vision for oracy and the 'why' in an incremental way has ensured that the staff develop oracy expertise and can see how this links to other strategies. The 'Day in the Life' of a student is a great way to exemplify what you are trying to achieve with every student, every day.

The work to include families is exemplary, from setting up parent engagement groups, to talk-rich parents evenings. Families are supported to understand oracy and what their child can achieve. It is clear that their voice matters, they are included in key decisions and kept informed through regular communications.

Recommendations

Your oracy curriculum maps out progressive presentational outcomes from Early Years to Year 6. This could be expanded to include some of the exploratory opportunities you want students to experience, still linked to the Oracy Framework. Starting with a student and/ or staff voice session on exploratory talk would give an idea of current beliefs and practice.

You have identified that you want to work with a wider network of schools and extend an oracy focus to a new community centre. Other schools would really benefit from hearing about your journey and approach to oracy education and we would be interested to hear about the impact of your collaboration with the community centre.

Area of excellence

It is apparent that the expertise of all staff is greatly prioritised and invested in. Staff are given frameworks and training to support their daily practice and decision making around oracy, being clear on what should be consistent and what can be adapted. More than this though, the approaches taken to give all staff a voice in their own professional development has meant that the everyone is on the journey together. From using personalised targets for teachers and teaching assistants, to individual research projects, this is an area that clearly has a huge impact across the school.

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Has an ambitious vision for oracy

It is clear that the vision for oracy is integral to the vision for education as a whole at Samarès. Oracy has been identified as a key driver for personal and social development and a way to meet the specific needs of the students. How and where to implement oracy has been carefully considered to have the most impact and families are involved in decisions and actions.

Builds a culture of oracy

Oracy permeates through many areas of school life beyond the classroom. It is visible, celebrated and showcased in a deliberate and effective way. By weaving oracy through policies and practice, areas like playtimes, assemblies and parents' evenings have been transformed. The impact can be heard through many voices from across the school community.

Has a sustained and wide-ranging curriculum for oracy

The curriculum of oracy at Samarès is engaging and progressive. Purposes for talk and audiences have been mapped out, to build through explicit oracy outcomes, ensuring students become more skilled and confident as they progress through the school. Careful thought has been given to how each talk tactic and grouping is introduced year-on-year.

Recognises oracy as central to learning

Oracy links closely to the teaching and learning policy and carefully chosen key approaches are used to elevate learning across all subjects. Structured approaches to staff development have ensured that these approaches are embedded across the school, but also understood well enough to be expertly adapted to different subject learning.

Is accountable for the impact of oracy

There are explicit processes in place to understand the impact of oracy and continually evaluate and refine approaches. Oracy is regularly monitored and the results shared, including seeking external moderation. Staff are fully involved and invested through student progress reviews, individual oracy targets and research projects that influence future approaches.

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.

Please complete this [questionnaire](#) to tell us which opportunities you are interested in pursuing.