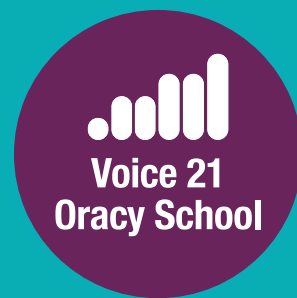


# Become a Voice 21 Oracy School

September 2023



Voice 21 is a registered charity in England and Wales.  
Charity number 1152672

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.



## Oracy skills are vital to success in school and in life.

Spoken language skills are one of the strongest predictors of a child's future life chances. Children with better spoken language skills are happier, have greater confidence and achieve more. On leaving school, they are less likely to suffer mental health difficulties, more likely to thrive in further and higher education and have better job prospects.

And yet, unlike literacy and numeracy, oracy is rarely explicitly taught and developing these essential skills is left to chance in our education system. This disadvantages children from low income families who start school up to 17 months behind their more advantaged peers in spoken language development. A gap which widens as they move through school.

**It doesn't need to be this way...**



In the EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit, oral language interventions are ranked **joint-second** in terms of impact on student outcomes. They are deemed very high impact for very low cost, based on extensive evidence.



Speaking and listening skills are **critical foundations for reading and writing.**<sup>2</sup>



Young people with good communication skills are **less likely** to have mental health difficulties.<sup>1</sup>



Students with better oral language skills are more likely to achieve the **highest grades in GCSE Maths and English.**<sup>3</sup>

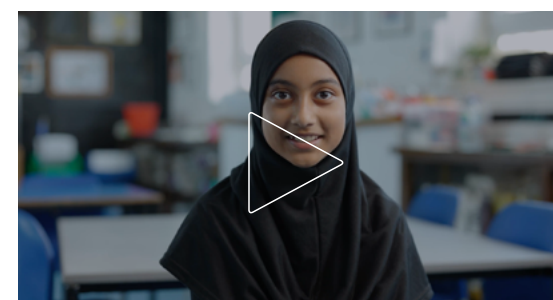


**Oracy learning this year [...has] helped me to become more confident and proud of talking to others.**

Year 6 student, Longthorpe Primary Academy

Hear about the difference a high-quality oracy education has made to students at Cubitt Town Primary School and Washwood Heath MAT

[Cubitt Town Primary School](#)



[Washwood Heath MAT](#)





# In Voice 21 Oracy Schools students learn the oracy skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

As a Voice 21 Oracy School, you will be joining a movement of over 900 schools across the UK who are transforming teaching and learning through talk.

Our sustained approach weaves oracy into your school’s DNA, ensuring current and future students have access to a high-quality oracy education. We provide comprehensive training and support to your teachers and school leaders to embed oracy deliberately and explicitly in your teaching practices and across your curriculum.

This means that students in your school, including those who would otherwise miss out, will develop the oracy skills they need to thrive in school and beyond.



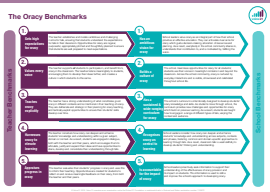
**Voice 21 has had a monumental impact across the school this year.**

Senior Leader, Parish CofE Primary School



Read more about the difference a high-quality oracy education is making to students in Voice 21 Oracy Schools in our [21/22 Impact and Insights report](#).

**Hear from students in Voice 21 Oracy Schools about the difference oracy education has made to them.**



As a Voice 21 Oracy School, you’ll work towards meeting the Oracy Benchmarks in your school. Learn more about the Oracy Benchmarks in this report.



**Oracy has become part of our everyday practice across the school.**

Teacher, Ringland Primary School

## In Voice 21 Oracy Schools...

**84%**

of teachers said that teaching and learning has improved



**77%**

of teachers said that oracy had boosted attainment



**96%**

of teachers said that oracy is an essential part of teaching and learning



**89%**

of students agree/strongly agree that speaking and listening has helped them make progress with their school work



**[Oracy] is making students more confident and driving progress.**

Middle Leader, Bishop Young Church of England Academy

# We will equip teachers and leaders across your school with the tools, expertise and practical approaches to provide your students with a high-quality oracy education.

We recognise that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to implementing oracy education in schools. This is why, as a Voice 21 Oracy School, you will have access to a comprehensive package of support which can be tailored to your school’s specific needs. This support will enable you to achieve national recognition as a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence.

## Hallmarks of our approach



### Evidence and context driven

Our approach is evidence-informed and research-led. We’ll support you to apply the evidence-base for oracy to your context through thoughtful implementation.



### Sustained

We work with you over a number of years to embed long term change and support your school to become a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence.



### Layered

We work with teachers, leaders and your wider staff to secure whole-school impact. We’ll support you to identify the best learning opportunities for staff across your school according to their role and specialism.



### Collaborative

We have the largest network of oracy schools in the country, giving you plenty of opportunities to collaborate with and draw inspiration from other schools through peer open mornings, practice sharing and networking events.

# What’s included in our membership?

## Pathway programme



Two days of in-person, expert-led professional development and online learning for your Oracy Champions.

## Open Learning



Unlimited professional development that is open to everyone in your school. Flexible and self-serve at times that work for you.

## Your oracy network



Engage with and learn from our network of over 850 schools across the UK via open mornings, member events and peer learning.

## The Voice 21 Exchange



Our online learning platform where you can access a wide range of online modules and an extensive resource library.

## A dedicated School Relationships Officer



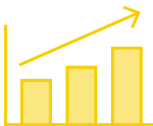
A dedicated point of contact at Voice 21 who’ll provide guidance, support and advice throughout the year.

## Implementation toolkit



Online modules, resources and templates to enable you to develop a strategic plan for oracy in your school.

## Impact measurement tools



Staff and student surveys to understand and track the progress you’re making.

## In-school consultancy day



A day of in-school support with one of our Programme Leads to help you implement oracy education across your school.



# As a Voice 21 Oracy School, you will join a dynamic movement of schools who are changing the education system as we know it.

You will have plenty of opportunities to network with and learn from teachers and leaders in Voice 21 Oracy Schools across the UK. Share ideas, seek inspiration and discover new ways to strengthen and elevate your school's oracy provision.

## The Great Oracy Exhibition

**Hold the date! 10th October 2023 at Kings House Conference Centre, Manchester**

The Great Oracy Exhibition is the annual gathering of Voice 21 Oracy Schools. A vibrant, energising and inspiring day packed with masterclasses, skills sessions, student performances and keynote speakers, it's an essential date for your diary!



## Oracy October

**Hold the date! Online and in classrooms throughout October 2023**

Oracy October is our month to spotlight the importance of oracy education and raise the profile of oracy in your school. With a different theme every year, there are a myriad of ways for you and your students to get involved from live online events, webinars, campaigns, challenges and competitions.

## Our Annual Conference

**Hold the date! Spring term 2024**

Voice 21's Annual Conference is the essential space to hear from innovative thought-leaders at the forefront of oracy practice sharing the latest oracy research, insights and opinions. Join expert practitioners, academics and well-known faces to discuss and debate the key education issues of the day through an oracy lens.



## Our Peer Open Mornings

Our Peer Open Mornings take place across the UK during the Spring and Summer terms. These are great opportunities to observe oracy classroom practice and see how oracy education has enhanced school culture in one of our thriving Voice 21 Oracy Schools. Get motivated by asking questions, absorbing ideas and sharing thinking with fellow teachers and senior leaders.

## Pricing

Primary schools  
£2650

Secondary schools  
£3250

We offer discounted rates to schools who purchase a multi year membership or who join us as part of a group, please get in touch with us at [join@voice21.org](mailto:join@voice21.org) if you would like to find out more.

To register for September 2023, please follow [this link](#).



## Endnotes

1. Communications Trust, Talking about a Generation, 2017
2. Improving Literacy in KS1 Guidance report, EEF, 2020
3. Spencer, S., Clegg, J., Stackhouse, J. et al. (1 more author) (2017) Contribution of spoken language and socio-economic background to adolescents' educational achievement at age 16 years. International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders, 52 (2). pp. 184-196



# The Final Word

“

**I've been more open to people because of oracy.**

Year 9 student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**I have seen very personal gains for students who may normally not have a voice in class.**

Teacher, Our Lady and St. John's Catholic College

“

**I used to shout out all the time but now I can wait until its my turn because I know I will always get a turn to speak.**

Year 1 Student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**Everybody in this school deserves to be heard and has a fair chance to speak their thoughts.**

Year 7 student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**Oracy is a huge part of our school in every way possible.**

Teaching Assistant, Parish C of E Primary School

“

**It makes me feel heard!!!**

Year 8 student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**Children are finding their voice has value and their opinions are valid.**

Middle Leader, Stanton Community Primary School

“

**It has been lovely to watch my pupils and others across the school grow in confidence with oracy.**

Teacher, Mount Charles School

“

**Oracy is what helps build your confidence.**

Year 6 student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**Oracy is helping to create a buzz about learning and increasing participation.**

Senior Leader, St. Chad's Church of England Primary School

“

**You get the chance to express your feelings.**

Year 7 student, Voice 21 Oracy School

“

**I feel it is important that everyone feels like they have a voice and not hide away from speaking up.**

Reception student, Voice 21 Oracy School

