Great Oracy Exhibition 2025

Oracy Excellence in a Secondary Setting

Shilpa Sisodia - Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust

Gemma Papworth & Robyn Wallace - Meridian High School



Journey to oracy excellence

Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust

Shilpa Sisodia (FCCT): Trust Education Lead (T&L)

Context:

- Family of 7 schools (3 secondary, 1 all through, 4 Primary)
- 4763 students East Birmingham Inner City
- 58% EAL,
- 62 % FSM
- Attendance = 93%
- 3 Oracy Centres of Excellence
- All schools have improved from RI to Good/Outstanding, 5 Ofsteds in the last year
- Varied employment for adults, high number of migrant communities.



Journey to oracy excellence

Meridian High School

School context:

- 547 students
- 49% SEND 11% EHCPs
- 68% Pupil Premium
- Average reading age across the school = 12 years 4 months
- Attendance = 94.6% (above National average especially for SEND and PP)
- Over half of adults in the local area are in part-time work or not in work.



Your approach to...

Curriculum

How has oracy become an embedded part of every students' daily education?

Implementation

Monitoring

Barriers



Your approach to...

Inclusion

What does excellent oracy practice look like when it comes to ensuring every student is included, heard and valued?

Implementation

Monitoring

Barriers



Your approach to...

Assessment

What does meaningful assessment of (or though) oracy look like in practice - and what should we avoid?

Implementation

Monitoring

Barriers



What difference has a high-quality oracy education made to your students?



What next?

