



Communication and Language

Strong communication is the foundation for learning, relationships and life.

At Cherry Tree Academy we develop confident, articulate children who can express their ideas, listen to others and engage in meaningful conversation.



Oracy at the Heart

We use Purposeful Partner Talk (PPT) to develop speaking and listening skills across school.



Rich Vocabulary

We explicitly teach and build vocabulary through stories, topics and everyday experiences.



Listening to Learn

Children are taught to listen carefully, respond thoughtfully and value others' ideas.



High-Quality Interactions

Adults model, scaffold and extend language every day.



Inclusive and Supportive

We identify needs early and provide targeted support so every child can communicate and thrive.



“ Every conversation is an opportunity to learn. ”



PURPOSEFUL PARTNER TALK

Talk together. Think together. Learn together.



			
Partner up Work with your talk partner.	Talk purposefully Share your ideas and listen to each other.	Think together Ask questions and build on ideas.	Achieve more Better talk leads to better learning.

At Cherry Tree Academy, talk is powerful.

AGREE BUILD CHALLENGE (ABC)

AGREE

Agree more information.



I would like to agree...

BUILD

Build on your partner's ideas.



I agree and would like to build on that by...

CHALLENGE

Challenge ideas in a kind and respectful way.



I wonder if... What if... Why do you think that?

Better talk. Better thinking. Better learning.

Communication and Language at Cherry Tree Academy

Vision

At Cherry Tree Academy, we recognise that strong communication and language skills are the foundation for all learning. We aim to develop confident, articulate children who can express their ideas clearly, listen attentively and engage in meaningful conversation.

We understand that early language development is crucial in enabling children to succeed across the curriculum and beyond.

Our Approach

Oracy at the Heart of Learning

Oracy underpins all areas of the curriculum and is explicitly taught from EYFS through to Year 6.

- We use Purposeful Partner Talk (PPT) to structure high-quality talk.
- Children are taught to add, build and challenge ideas (ABD approach).
- Sentence stems and prompts support children in articulating their thinking.
- Listening skills are explicitly taught and modelled.

Children learn how to speak with clarity, confidence and purpose.

PURPOSEFUL PARTNERS	
 Nesting Time (Thinking time).	 Agree
 Turn your chair to face your partner.	 What is it that you agree with? Why do you agree?
 Have good eye contact.	 Build
 Who is going first?	 Challenge
 Speak in full sentences.	 Do you have a different idea? Can you think of a different point of view?
 Show that you are listening.	 What can you add to the conversation?
 Be ready to feedback.	



High-Quality Interactions

We place a strong emphasis on adult–child interactions.

- Adults model correct language, vocabulary and grammar.
- Talk is scaffolded and extended through questioning.
- Every interaction is viewed as an opportunity to develop language.

Children are immersed in rich, purposeful talk throughout the day.

Vocabulary Development

Vocabulary is carefully planned and explicitly taught.

- New vocabulary is introduced through:
 - Talk Through Stories
 - Topic learning
 - Maths and wider curriculum
- Visual supports (e.g. Communication in Print) are used to support understanding.
- Targeted interventions such as WELCOMM support children with gaps.

Children develop a broad and secure vocabulary over time.

Opportunities for Talk

Children are given frequent opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills through:

- Storytelling and role play.
- Structured partner talk.
- Whole-class discussions.
- Recalling and talking about their learning daily.

Talk is planned, purposeful and embedded across the curriculum.

Communication and Language in EYFS

In the Early Years, communication and language development is prioritised through:

- A language-rich environment with constant opportunities for talk.
- High-quality adult modelling and interaction.
- Daily storytelling, songs, rhymes and poetry.
- Structured speaking and listening opportunities.
- Early identification and support through interventions such as WELCOMM.

Adults use approaches such as SHREC to:

- Share attention.
- Respond.
- Expand language.
- Encourage conversation.



Children develop the speaking and listening skills needed to become successful learners.

Targeted Support: WELCOMM

At Cherry Tree Academy, we use the WELCOMM (WellComm) Speech and Language Toolkit to support the early identification and development of children's communication and language skills.

Children in EYFS are screened using WELCOMM to identify any gaps in speech, language and understanding as early as possible. This allows us to put timely and effective support in place so that all children can access the full curriculum.

Where needed, children receive targeted small group or 1:1 interventions, focusing on key areas such as:

- Understanding and following instructions.
- Developing vocabulary.
- Building sentence structure.
- Improving speaking and listening skills.

WELCOMM is embedded into our daily practice, with strategies and activities used within provision and adult-led sessions to reinforce learning. Progress is closely monitored and reviewed, ensuring that support is responsive and impactful.

This proactive approach helps children to develop the language skills they need to communicate confidently and succeed in their learning.

Inclusion and Support

We ensure all children can access and develop communication and language skills by:

- Identifying needs early.
- Providing targeted interventions and support.
- Using visual prompts and scaffolds.
- Adapting teaching to meet individual needs.

Impact

Through our approach, children:

- Become confident speakers.
- Develop strong listening skills.
- Use a wide and ambitious vocabulary.
- Are well prepared for reading, writing and the wider curriculum.