

Our Oracy Curriculum: Golden Threads

At Diamond Wood Community Academy, we are dedicated to advancing oracy as a core element of our curriculum. Through our partnership with the Jerry Clay English Hub, we continuously refine our teaching practices, supported by expert guidance and ongoing professional development. Our Deputy Headteacher’s role as a literacy specialist highlights our commitment to enhancing spoken language skills across all aspects of learning.

Our Oracy Curriculum is built around the Voice 21 Oracy Framework, which develops key communication skills across five areas: Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive, Social, and Emotional. To further enrich this approach, we have identified our Golden Threads—substantive and disciplinary concepts that underpin our teaching of oracy. These threads guide our focus on crucial skills, ensuring every lesson and interaction contributes to our pupils' ability to communicate clearly and confidently.

We have combined these insights with a model that breaks down language into three lenses—Form, Content, and Use. Form focuses on how we express and understand language, Content on what we communicate, and Use on applying spoken language in real-life contexts. By integrating the Oracy Framework with this model, we have created an ambitious and effective oracy strategy that systematically develops our pupils' communication skills, preparing them for success in both academic settings and their wider lives.

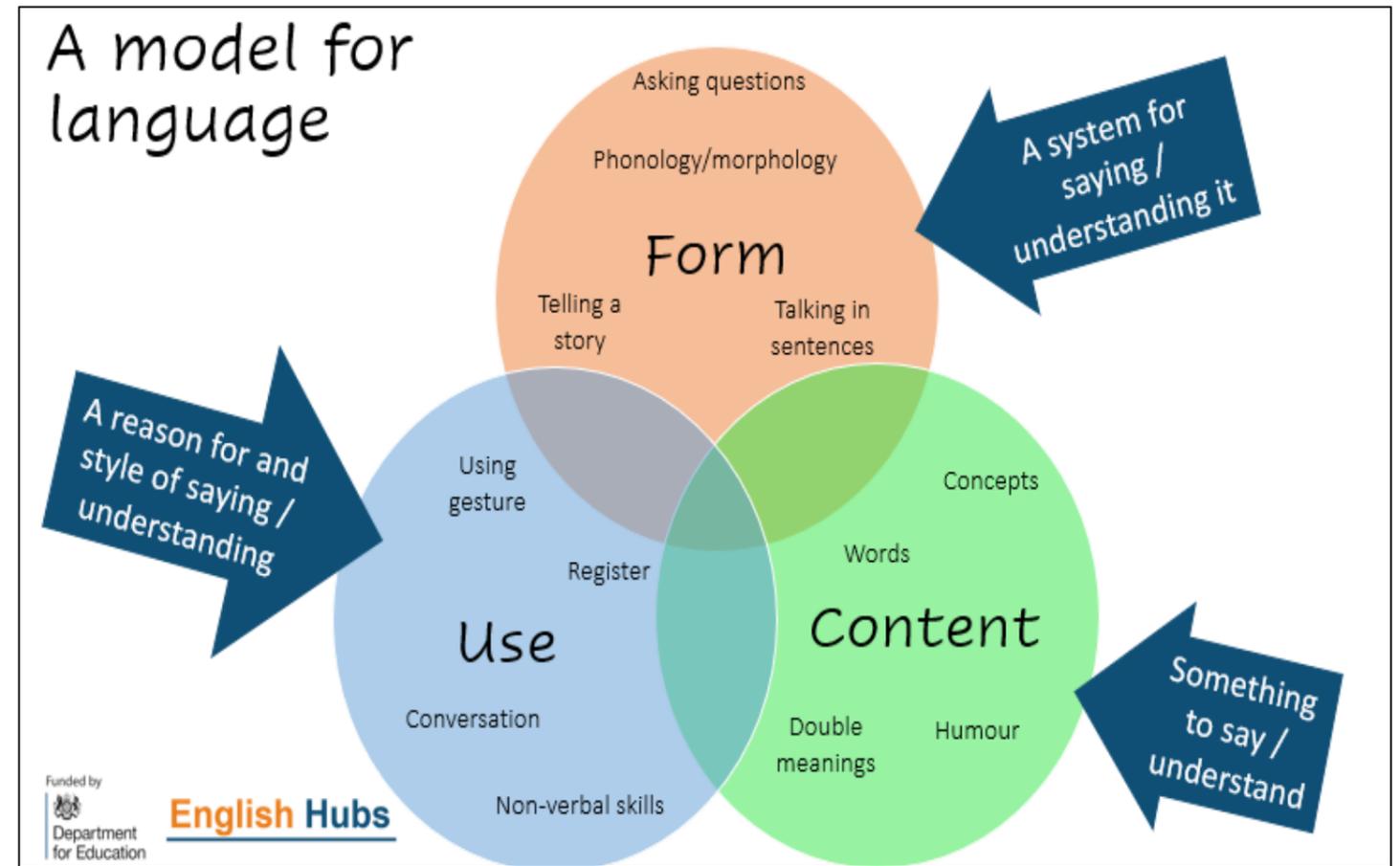
The Oracy Skills Framework and Glossary

Oracy Cambridge
The Hughes Hall Centre for Effective Spoken Communication

voice 21

- Physical**
 - Voice
 - Pace of speaking
 - Tonal variation
 - Clarity of pronunciation
 - Voice projection
 - Body language
 - Gesture & posture
 - Facial expression & eye contact
- Linguistic**
 - Vocabulary
 - Appropriate vocabulary choice
 - Language
 - Register
 - Grammar
 - Rhetorical techniques
 - Rhetorical techniques such as metaphor, humour, irony & mimicry
- Cognitive**
 - Content
 - Choice of content to convey meaning & intention
 - Building on the views of others
 - Structure
 - Structure & organisation of talk
 - Clarifying & summarising
 - Seeking information & clarification through questioning
 - Summarising
 - Self-regulation
 - Maintaining focus on task
 - Time management
 - Reasoning
 - Giving reasons to support views
 - Critically examining ideas & views expressed
- Social & Emotional**
 - Working with others
 - Guiding or managing interactions
 - Turn-taking
 - Listening & responding
 - Listening actively & responding appropriately
 - Confidence in speaking
 - Self assurance
 - Liveliness & flair
 - Audience awareness
 - Taking account of level of understanding of the audience

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Our Oracy Golden Threads Rationale

Substantive Concepts

Physical (how we communicate)	<p>Non-verbal communication: Understanding body language, gestures, and facial expressions to enhance spoken communication.</p> <p>Voice modulation: Developing skills in tone, pitch, and volume to convey meaning effectively.</p> <p>(Form): Utilising body language and voice effectively.</p>
Linguistic (the language we use)	<p>Vocabulary Development: Building a rich and diverse vocabulary to express thoughts and ideas effectively.</p> <p>Understanding of Language Structures: Grasping the mechanics of language to support clear communication.</p> <p>(Content): Selecting appropriate vocabulary and structures for effective communication.</p>

Disciplinary Concepts

Cognitive (how we think about language)	<p>Critical Thinking: Developing the ability to reason and construct arguments in spoken language.</p> <p>Content Understanding: Identifying and articulating key ideas, themes, and knowledge in discussions and dialogues.</p> <p>(Use): Applying critical thinking and content knowledge in discussions.</p>
Social (how we interact with others)	<p>Collaborative Communication: Learning to engage in group discussions, share ideas, and listen to others.</p> <p>Cultural Awareness: Recognising and appreciating diverse perspectives and backgrounds through language.</p> <p>(Use): Engaging effectively in social interactions and discussions.</p>
Emotional (how we connect with others)	<p>Empathy in Communication: Understanding the emotions of others and expressing one's own feelings appropriately.</p> <p>Confidence Building: Developing self-assurance in speaking and listening situations.</p> <p>(Use): Demonstrating empathy and confidence in communication.</p>

