

Developing oracy as a tool for learning

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Katy was concerned that whilst talk is a valuable tool for learning, it is not often explicitly taught. She also felt that students' ability to express themselves orally was a key skill for life. Teachers have a duty to equip students with the skills to speak out confidently.

My project began with consulting the literature and identifying examples of effective oracy practice from which I could learn and adapt resources. I then consulted students and colleagues to understand what was already in place. This helped to develop my ideas about how oracy could be used to improve learning and the moral duty of teachers to help students become confident speaker.

During the period of remote learning, I led a staff workshop on strategies to increase talk for learning in the COVID-safe classroom, which gave my project a new focus. I met with key colleagues, including my head of department to narrow the focus of my project. This led to creating a pilot scheme of work with an enhanced focus on oracy skills in Year 7 English lessons.

I presented my project at a HertsCam Virtual Network Event and received useful feedback and a request to contact a colleague in my Multi Academy Trust. This meeting enabled me to widen the future impact of my project by discussing ways in which we could collaborate and enhance oracy across schools within the Trust.

PUPIL IMPACT

- more opportunities to use talk for learning in Year 7 English lessons
- increased confidence in articulating ideas to an audience
- high level of engagement in oral activities.

PROFESSIONAL IMPACT

- improved understanding of the importance of oracy amongst colleagues in the English department
- improved practice across the English department.

PERSONAL IMPACT

- renewed interest and passion for increasing opportunities for oracy in lessons
- increased confidence to lead change driven by moral purpose.

SYSTEM IMPACT

- collaboration with Samuel Ryder Academy initiated, with a view to working across the Scholars' Education Trust MAT to improve oracy.

1

KEY LEADERSHIP LESSON:

Change can be effectively led by any member of a school community.

2

KEY LEADERSHIP LESSON:

Believing passionately in your professional concern means that although projects start small, you can commit to plans for a long-lasting impact.

3

KEY LEADERSHIP LESSON:

Being part of a MAT aids collaboration with colleagues outside of your school and increases the impact of your project.

'My Y7s had a great discussion about the importance of oracy, inspired by the video in the first lesson of the scheme.' - colleague