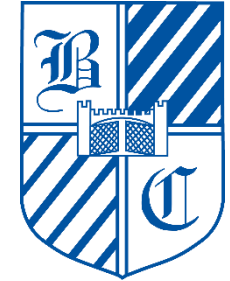


Oracy at Butlers Court



Our Butlers Court family nurtures kind, resilient, ambitious and curious children. Our caring environment supports well-being and self-belief, encouraging everyone to flourish. Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities, every child has the chance to shine, developing a love of learning and prepared for the ever-changing world and a future of possibilities.

Curriculum Intent

We offer all children a broad and exciting curriculum that inspires creativity, builds strong subject knowledge, and makes learning enjoyable and meaningful.

We nurture curiosity and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and independent thinking through engaging and memorable experiences.

We value every child's voice, encouraging them to express their opinions and take an active role in school life.

Our Values

Resilience

Honesty

Responsibility

Respect

Tolerance

Honesty

Curriculum Intent – We aim to ...

At Butlers Court School, we believe every child deserves to be heard – and to learn how to listen. Oracy is a golden thread running through our curriculum, enriching learning, building confidence, and nurturing thoughtful, articulate communicators ready for an ever-changing world. Rooted in our vision to inspire, nurture, and challenge, our oracy approach reflects current research and best practice. We understand that oracy is not just about speaking, but about developing key skills such as vocabulary, reasoning, collaboration, and empathy – all of which underpin success in reading, writing, and wider learning.

We create a safe and respectful environment where every voice is valued. From early storytelling and role-play to debates and presentations, children regularly engage in purposeful talk. We explicitly teach oracy skills – including turn-taking, active listening, building on others' ideas, and speaking with clarity – so children grow confident in expressing themselves across different contexts.

Oracy is deeply connected with reading and writing at Butlers Court. Through rich discussion and spoken exploration, pupils build the language and thinking skills that support comprehension and written expression. High-quality texts and structured talk enable children to reflect, explain, and imagine.

By the time they leave us, our pupils will be confident speakers and listeners – able to communicate with kindness, purpose, and integrity. They will have the courage to contribute, the curiosity to question, and the clarity to share their thinking – skills for school, and for life.

Curriculum Implementation – How we achieve this...

At Butlers Court School, we believe that spoken language is fundamental to learning, self-expression, and building relationships. To ensure oracy is a consistent and purposeful part of every child's journey, we have adopted a whole-school approach rooted in our agreed Oracy Vision Statements, which guide what high-quality talk looks like in every classroom.

We use the Oracy Skills Framework to plan and assess progression across the four key strands—Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive, and Social & Emotional. This enables teachers to set clear, age-appropriate oracy targets and provide formative feedback, supporting every child to grow as a confident and effective communicator.

Our child-friendly speaking and listening rules are displayed and embedded in all learning spaces, ensuring consistency and clarity across the school. These help to create a respectful, inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued.

To promote active pupil talk, teachers use talk prompts, teacher talk moves, and Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures that encourage rich interaction between pairs and groups. A balanced approach of dialogic teaching (fostering open discussion) and authoritative teaching (providing structure and clarity) supports meaningful and purposeful talk across subjects.

We foster a culture of talk beyond the classroom through weekly child-led TED-style talks and a whole-school 'Question of the Week', giving children opportunities to lead, explore ideas, and celebrate their voice.

We also share and refine our practice by working with local oracy leads through the Beaconsfield Liaison Group, ensuring our approach remains innovative, reflective, and rooted in best practice.

Oracy Skills Framework

Oracy is multidimensional. This can perhaps be seen most clearly in the Oracy Skills Framework, which breaks oracy down into four dimensions – physical, linguistic, cognitive and social/emotional – each of which is then further broken down into several sub-criteria.

A Systematic Approach

Using the Oracy Framework at Butlers Court School creates a systematic, consistent, and intentional approach to teaching oracy by providing a clear structure and shared language for staff and pupils. It ensures oracy is not left to chance but is explicitly taught, modelled, and embedded across the curriculum.

Curriculum Impact

Oracy Impact at Butlers Court School

At Butlers Court School, our focus on oracy is making a meaningful difference in how our pupils grow as confident, thoughtful, and expressive individuals. Oracy is not simply an aspect of learning—it is a foundation for our children’s development, both academically and personally, and reflects our school vision to inspire, nurture, and challenge every child.

Through our consistent, whole-school approach to oracy, children are given daily opportunities to find their voice, express their ideas, and actively listen to others. Whether through structured class talk, debates, storytelling, presentations, or weekly child-led TED-style talks, our pupils are becoming more self-assured speakers and empathetic listeners. This culture of purposeful talk supports not only literacy, but also self-belief, curiosity, and respectful collaboration—core values that underpin our school community.

By using the Oracy Skills Framework, teachers ensure pupils make clear progress in the physical, linguistic, cognitive, and social-emotional aspects of communication. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their speaking and listening, set personal targets, and engage meaningfully with others.

Tools like ABC questioning, Kagan structures, and dialogic teaching have helped embed high-quality talk across the curriculum, enabling deeper thinking and more inclusive participation.

As a result, pupils leave Butlers Court equipped with essential life skills. They are able to communicate with kindness, clarity, and confidence, to lead and collaborate, to listen thoughtfully, and to speak up for what matters to them. Our oracy work prepares children not just for the next stage in education—but for a future where their voice truly matters.