**Speaking: links to the EYFS**

The links between children’s communication and language and all other aspects of learning and development in the EYFS are critical. The skills and capabilities involved in speaking are fundamental to progress within the EYFS.

**The characteristics of effective leaning in the EYFS** are dependent on children developing the communication and language skills to develop their understanding.

* **Playing and exploring (engagement)** requires children to begin to articulate their ideas, both to themselves and to others, as they play with things and in situations which are familiar to them.
* **Active learning (motivation)** involves children expressing what they are trying to do and what they have achieved.
* **Creating and thinking critically (thinking)** requires an increasing level speaking skills as children clarify their thoughts and ideas, make links in their learning and decide how to do things.

**Speaking** is linked to all of the other areas of learning and development in the EYFS.

**Personal, social and emotional development requires** children to be able to communicate with others in order to form lasting relationships, to gain self-confidence and to explain and manage their feelings and behaviour in the company of others.

Being able to speak clearly and with meaning enables children to explain and discuss aspects of physical **development** they find easy or difficult. They will also develop the ability to communicate when they are tired, hungry or when they want to play as well as expressing their preferences.

Speaking is fundamentally linked to **literacy** as children re-tell stories, recite poems, articulate sounds and develop early reading skills.

**Mathematics** often takes place during play opportunities whenchildren use their speaking skills to say number words, recite number rhymes, think out loud, pose problems and find solutions. As their capacity to articulate their mathematical understanding develops, both to themselves and to others, they will be able to solve an increasing range of mathematical problems.

Developing the knowledge, skills and concepts required in **Understanding the World** is dependent on children developing vocabulary and speaking skills which will enable them to convey what they have discovered, or what they are thinking or doing, both to themselves and to others.

**Expressive arts and design** requires children to develop their speaking skills in order to clarify ideas, tell stories, and become involved in imaginary play across the visual and performing arts and design technology.

Speaking is fundamental to children developing the other aspects of **Communication and Language**. Children will develop their understanding, and value listening and attention skills as their own ability to speak develops.