Supporting oracy at home

Parents can make a real difference through a few minutes of purposeful conversation. You do not need to be a subject expert: asking questions and listening with interest can help your child develop their understanding and express their ideas more clearly.

Reinforce FLAIR at home

FLAIR is the acronym we use in school to remind students what good oracy looks like. You can encourage these same habits at home:

F — Face-to-face: Give each other your attention and reduce distractions.

L — Listening actively: Allow each other to finish and check understanding: "So you mean…?"

A — Articulate clearly: Encourage clear explanations, a steady pace and precise vocabulary.

I — Ideas are linked: Make connections and build on what has been said: "That connects to…"

R — Responsive questioning: Ask follow-up questions that explore the speaker's ideas: "Why do you think that?"

Three simple ways to help

1. Talk about what they have learnt
Ask your child to explain something they have learnt at school, initially without looking at their notes. Recalling learning from memory - known as retrieval practice - helps strengthen their knowledge and identify anything they need to revisit. Try: "What can you remember about…?" or "Can you explain that to me?" Afterwards, they can check their notes for anything they missed.

2. Encourage revision aloud
Invite your child to talk you through a topic, using a mind map or flashcards as prompts. Encourage them to expand on the key words, explain connections and give examples, rather than simply read aloud. "Talk me through this part" or "How do these ideas connect?" can help them develop a fuller explanation.

3. Ask questions that deepen their thinking
Help your child move beyond describing what happened to explaining its significance. Simple follow-up questions can encourage them to explore causes, consequences and impact:

- "Why does that matter?"
- "Why was this important?"
- "What did this lead to?"
- "What evidence supports your explanation?"

Choose one or two questions and give your child time to think. These conversations reinforce FLAIR, particularly articulating clearly, linking ideas and asking responsive questions.

Keep it encouraging

Keep conversations relaxed, allow thinking time and praise something specific: "Your example helped me understand." Quieter students may prefer time to prepare and a conversation with a trusted adult. The aim is to help your child develop their ideas and confidence, with an interested listener who values what they have to say.