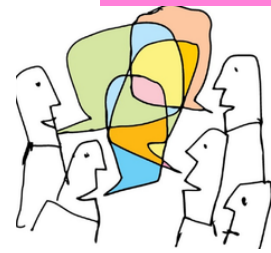




Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026



Oracy at Brindishe Schools

We're excited to share that oracy – the development of speaking and listening skills – continues to be a key focus in our school development plan this year. We wanted to explain what this means and how it will benefit your child.

What is oracy?

Oracy is the use of verbal interaction (dialogue) to develop pupils' skills in using spoken language, their understanding and use of vocabulary, and their ability to communicate effectively with others. You might also hear it referred to as 'speaking and listening'.

In the classroom, this includes activities like:

Class discussions and debates

Explaining concepts and ideas

Structured questioning to deepen understanding

Presenting to peers

TIME TO TALK AT HOME

Would you rather...?

... Be friends with the
Gruffalo or the mouse?

Why does oracy matter for your child?

Oracy can help pupils:

Increase self-confidence

Deepen their self-awareness

Improve resilience

Boost their wellbeing

Increase their academic achievement and employability

What does this look like at Brindishe Schools?

Our teachers are embedding oracy throughout our curriculum by:

Creating more opportunities for meaningful classroom discussions

Teaching subject-specific vocabulary explicitly

Modelling how to speak in full sentences and use appropriate tone

Giving children time to think before answering questions

Providing feedback on both what children say and how they say it

How can you support oracy at home?

A lot of oracy practice takes place outside of the classroom – especially at home. A lot of families may practise oracy without even realising it, through activities like family discussions at mealtimes. Simple ways to practise at home include:

Family mealtimes – ask your child open-ended questions about their day

Story time – encourage your child to retell stories or predict what might happen next

Board games – these naturally spark conversation and friendly debate

Everyday activities – involve your child in planning meals, shopping lists, or weekend activities

The key is to give your child opportunities to talk, explain their thinking, and express their opinions in a supportive environment. We'll be sharing more detailed resources and tips over the year to help you support your child's oracy development at home.



Building Belonging: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

In Lewisham, we have high aspirations for all children and young people and are committed to developing a more inclusive education system where every child feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

As part of this work, Lewisham are seeking feedback from parents and carers whose child has experienced a suspension, permanent exclusion, managed move, alternative provision placement, or other period away from school.

We know that exclusion can be a difficult experience for children, young people and families.

Through this survey, Lewisham want to better understand families' experiences, including:

- Whether they felt informed and supported throughout the process
- Whether they felt listened to and involved in decision-making
- How well their child's needs were understood
- What support worked well
- What could have been done differently
- What inclusion looks and feels like for children, young people and families



The feedback gathered will help improve communication, strengthen support for families, and ensure that parent and carer voices help shape future inclusion practice across Lewisham.

The survey should take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. There are no right or wrong answers, and we welcome both positive and challenging experiences.

Follow the link or use the QR code below

[Parent and Carer Exclusion Experience Survey](#)

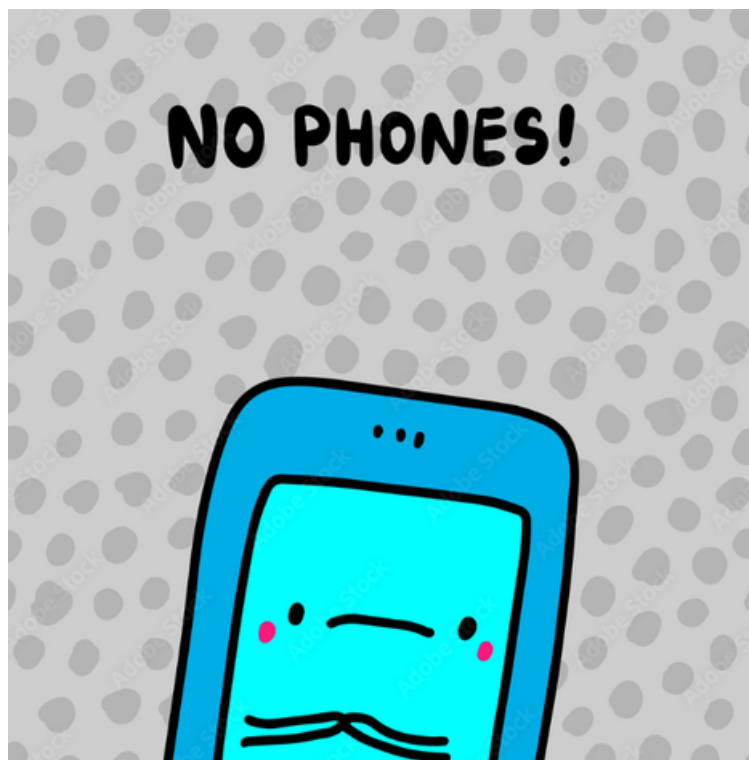


Mobile Phones, Mobile Phone Policy and Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring Brindishe Schools are safe and focused learning environments, we would like to remind you that our schools are a mobile phone free site. We request that parents/carers do not use mobile phones anywhere on the school premises (including the playgrounds, school foyers, breakfast and tea club sessions and when entering and exiting the sites). Staff will politely ask you to stop using your phone and put it away before you enter the school grounds.

There is still time for you to send us your thoughts and comments on our 'Mobile Phone Policy'. Link can be found here - [Mobile Phone Policy – Fill in form](#) and policy attached.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in this matter.



Online Safety Bulletin - Parental Controls

Back to school: Parental Controls

As we return to school, we need to remember the importance of keeping our children safe online in the classroom and at home. Internet Matters has many informative resources specific for all ages and topics.

While the internet can offer children many benefits, there is also risk of them coming across online harm. Click on the poster to explore some of these risks along with tips to keep your child safe.



Is your child in Year 6?

Important dates for secondary school admissions

Schools open for visits: **September/October 2026 (please check on school websites for up to date open day/evening information)**

Applications open (apply online): **Tuesday 1 September 2026**

Closing date for applications: **Saturday 31 October 2026 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 23 October 2026)**

Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: **Saturday 31 October 2026**

Further advice and guidance from Brindishe Schools to follow



Key Federation Dates

- **Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October**
- **INSET DAY - Friday 27th November 2026**

Brindishe Schools Governing Body

Governing Body meetings are regular and meet every half term. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend our meetings as 'observers'. This means you can sit and observe the meeting but will be unable to speak/comment and would need to leave the meeting during confidential items.

If you would like to know more about the governing body or you would like to attend one of our meetings, please email Rachel Waite - rawaite@brindisheschools.org. An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carers can join the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2026/2027 will be held on Thursday 15th October at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.

Rights Respecting Article

Article 38 (war and armed conflicts)

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.

Article 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)

Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

The International Day of Peace("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21st September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution at the General Assembly, it has been declared as a day devoted to "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

What does peace mean to you?

- Feeling calm, quiet, still
- Feeling safe wherever you are (in school, at home, in your community)
- Knowing you can trust the people around you
- Living in harmony with others
- Being the person you want to be without fear
- Supporting others who need help
- Living in a world without conflict or violence
- Living in a world where people respect and value each other
- No discrimination
- A just and fair government you can trust
- Living in an inclusive community without racism or hate
- Acting in a way that helps others to feel calm and happy



Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace. Explore the [International Day of Peace website](#) to find out what the International Day of Peace is all about.

Listen to the story [This is Our House](#) by Michael Rosen. At the beginning of the story George didn't know how to play and share with other children which made them upset. What did he learn? How do you make sure you include everyone in your class so that it is a safe and peaceful place?

This Is Our House



Michael Rosen Bob Graham



Brindishe Schools Federation

Priorities 2026-2027

Securing the Best Practice, Achieving the Best Outcomes

Creating an Education without Boundaries



Brindishe
Federation

1

Building Capacity, Strengthening Accountability

- Teachers and staff will resume in meeting regularly in groups to share ideas and work on making things better for your children.
- As always, all our teachers and staff will have personal goals that link to our school's priorities.
- We will provide coaching, training and support to help all our staff become even better at what they do.

2

Diversity by Design: Every Voice, Every Story

- We will regularly check our curriculum to ensure all children can see people like themselves in the stories, examples and topics we cover.
- Children will learn best when they can get hands-on and creative which is one of our main aims.
- We will continue to plan our lessons so that children with special educational needs (SEND) or those who need extra help can continue to access the same exciting learning as everyone else.

3

Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences

- We will focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills (oracy) alongside their reading and writing.
- We will continue to strengthen Maths Mastery in EYFS so children spend more time really understanding number concepts.

4

Excellence Without Exception

- We will use our new tracking system called INSIGHT to strengthen how we monitor all children in their learning. This will help us quickly spot if any child or group of children needs extra support.
- We are still very committed to closing any gaps in achievement, so vulnerable children make just as much progress as their classmates.

5

Every Child Seen, Heard and Valued

- We will introduce a new behaviour policy called 'Promoting Good Relationships'.
- We're continuing to expand our range of clubs, trips and special activities we offer children.
- We've carefully planned our after-school clubs, lunchtime activities and special events so they complement what children are learning in class.



Brindishe Schools Federation

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6

Engage, Enrich, Belong

- We will work hard to make sure children attend school regularly, aiming for at least 96% attendance across the school.
- If a child misses more than 10% of school (roughly one day every two weeks), we will work closely with you and your child to understand what's making it difficult for them to attend.

8

Every Child, Every Layer, Every Day

- We will continue to plan our lessons so that all children can access the same high-quality learning, whatever their needs.
- The government is introducing changes to how schools support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We're preparing for these changes

10

Protecting Pupils in Every Space

- As we do every year, we're providing annual updated training for all our staff on safeguarding issues that happen outside of family life and in the digital world.
- We will further strengthen our leadership and systems in place to protect children when they're using technology at school.
- We will introduce a mobile phone policy that restricts when children can use phones at Brindishe Schools

7

Playful Minds, Happy Learners

- We're introducing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), which transforms playtimes into richer, more exciting experiences for children.
- We're creating even more opportunities for children to take on leadership roles and have their voices heard.
- We will continue with our 'Let's Go Zero' campaign, which means making our schools even more environmentally friendly and work towards becoming carbon neutral.

9

Beyond the Four Walls

- In our Early Years, we're focusing on 'oracy' – which simply means helping children become confident speakers and good listeners.
- We're expanding our outdoor learning and educational visits because children learn so much from hands-on experiences outside the classroom.
- We will help children understand why what they're learning matters and how it relates to their lives and the world around them by creating real-life experiences.