

## Talk Time at Roundhay School

Talk Time at Roundhay School is an opportunity for children to develop effective habits of thinking. We are providing children with the resourcefulness needed to be emotionally fit and resilient, both inside and out of school. Talk Time is a tool that will enable all children to take part in discussions that will get them thinking about the world around them, and in turn develop their oracy and ability to talk confidently, appropriately and sensitively. We want to give children the freedom and confidence to have their voices heard and their imagination's stretched.

Children will be engaged in conversations guided by themselves about big ideas. Placing an importance on thinking as a means of developing learning will allow more children to access more areas of the curriculum. By designating a space for children to think and question they will be able to develop relationships built on trust and communication with their peers.

At Roundhay School, we understand that the size of a child's spoken vocabulary impacts on the ease and speed with which they learn – "Learning floats on a sea of talk."

### Timetable

Each class has three timetabled Talk Time sessions per week. These sessions will provide opportunities for children to participate in both debate and discussion in a structured environment.

Each week, one Talk Time session will be dedicated to a weekly theme linking to our core values and curriculum drivers. The theme will be launched in assembly on a Monday, discussed in Talk Time and reflected on in a Wednesday assembly. The other two sessions may be dedicated to current issues (e.g. Newsround stimulus) and developing Strength of Character.

### Structure

Each session will follow a clear structure to allow adequate time to develop and share ideas:

- Reminder of discussion guidelines. These should be displayed during Talk Time.
- Launch theme and display question/big idea.
- Give children a minute of independent thinking time to reflect on the stimulus.
- Encourage children to share their thoughts in a pair or three, modelling the use of appropriate talk frames and sentence stems (displayed on SmartBoard).
- Share thoughts as a class or small group, encouraging children to agree, disagree and contribute their own ideas. To begin with this may be quite structured, with the aim of facilitating a discussion/debate without a dictated structure in future sessions.
- Summarise key ideas and thoughts. Again, to begin with this may be teacher-led with the aim of children in turn being able to summarise the discussion findings.

### Sentence Stems and Talk Frames

Sentence stems should be used to encourage children to verbalise their ideas in complete, developed sentences. They give children the ability to frame their ideas and develop their sentence structure. Please consider which sentence stems are appropriate for each session, and encourage children to use these in other curriculum areas (such as sharing an idea in Maths or agreeing/disagreeing in English).

### Discussion Guidelines – Our Oracy Agreement

You may want to use a session to decide on your class' personal discussion guidelines, considering what is important for your children and what they think is important for them. Some examples include:

*Always respect each other's ideas.  
Be prepared to change your mind.  
Come to a shared agreement.*

*Clarify, challenge, summarize, and build on each other's ideas.  
Invite someone to contribute by asking a question.  
Show proof of listening.*