

# Subject: English

## Golden Concept: Speaking and Listening

### Purpose:

The English National Curriculum places a significant emphasis on speaking and listening skills for several reasons. Primarily, it aims to cultivate effective communication abilities, allowing students to express themselves clearly and confidently. This emphasis also fosters language fluency, enabling students to articulate their thoughts proficiently. Moreover, these skills support social interaction, encouraging collaborative activities and enhancing teamwork. They also promote critical thinking as students engage in discussions, debates, and analysis. Developing strong listening skills aids in understanding different accents, tones, and contexts, contributing to cultural comprehension. Ultimately, fostering speaking and listening skills not only enhances language proficiency but also nurtures personal development, confidence, and the capacity for successful communication in diverse settings.

### Assessment:

Teachers will assess speaking and listening skills through observations during class discussions, group activities, presentations, and role-plays. They should observe how well students engage, express themselves, and listen actively.

Students can be given assessment criteria to outline the expectations for each level of proficiency, in order to support their understanding of the specific skills involved. For example: clarity of expression, active listening, contribution to discussions, language use, organisation of ideas.

### Cross curriculum:

**Science:** Effective communication through speaking and listening is crucial for explaining hypotheses, discussing findings, and collaborating during experiments or group projects. Students need to articulate their observations and thoughts clearly to convey scientific concepts.

**History:** Within history, speaking and listening skills are essential for discussing historical events, analysing perspectives, and debating interpretations of historical evidence. Effective communication aids in understanding diverse viewpoints and forming well-reasoned arguments.

**Maths:** Students need speaking and listening skills to explain problem-solving methods, discuss mathematical reasoning, and engage in group discussions to explore different approaches to solving mathematical problems.

**Art and Design:** speaking and listening support the critique and analysis of artworks. Students can express their artistic ideas verbally and engage in discussions about artistic techniques, styles, and influences.

**Physical Education:** communication skills are crucial for teamwork, strategizing during games, and discussing techniques. Verbal communication and attentive listening help in understanding instructions and collaborating effectively in sports or fitness activities.

### Key Stage or stage breakdown:

**Stage 1-2:** At this stage, emphasis is placed on developing foundational communication skills. Students will learn to express themselves orally, listen attentively, and participate in group discussions. Activities will involve storytelling, show-and-tell sessions, role-playing, and simple presentations to encourage confidence in speaking and active listening.

**Stages 3-6:** Building on foundational skills, this stage will focus on more complex communication abilities. Students will engage in debates, structured discussions, and presentations where they express opinions, share ideas, and listen actively to others. They will learn to organize their thoughts coherently and develop persuasive communication skills.

**Stages 7-9:** The emphasis will shift towards refining communication skills for more specialized learning. Students will participate in more structured debates, formal presentations, and collaborative group projects across various subjects. They will delve deeper into critical thinking through discussions and refine their ability to express complex ideas clearly.