



Department for Education

2025-0042568

**Georgia Gould OBE MP
Minister for School Standards**

Voice 21

By email: public.affairs@voice21.org

15 January 2026

Dear all,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 July, addressed to the Prime Minister, regarding oracy. Your correspondence was passed to this department on 11 November, and I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I agree with the importance of oracy education, and the role it plays in the success of our young people. On 5 November 2025, the Curriculum and Assessment Review, chaired by Professor Becky Francis, published its final report 'Building a world-class curriculum for all' and we welcome the Review's focus on oracy. As well as supporting high standards as a valuable teaching strategy, expressing oneself fluently and communicating well is crucial for life and work, and an important vehicle for social justice. The Review's final report is published on GOV.UK at: tinyurl.com/55EU69XS.

We will make sure that communication skills inherent in curriculum subjects are more clearly expressed through revised programmes of study. We will revise the English and drama programmes of study to exemplify the use of speaking and listening, as well as ensuring that the reformed English language GCSE focusses on the features and use of language as a form of communication. We will also create a new oracy framework to sit alongside the national curriculum that will support primary teachers to help their pupils become confident, fluent speakers by the end of key stage 2. The framework will be underpinned by evidence-based pedagogical approaches for teaching this vital skill.

Through the development of the oracy framework, we will seek to provide teachers with guidance on how to formatively assess and support pupils' oracy, using the best available evidence and research and building consensus amongst sector experts. We will also support schools to implement this best practice through professional development opportunities designed to support teachers in ensuring all children benefit from high quality oracy education.

I want to assure you all that this is a huge priority for the department, and we want to frame it as positively and strongly as possible. We are committed to strengthening speech, language and communication skills at every stage of learning. We will be strengthening the secondary dimension significantly so that this is embedded throughout programmes of study, not just in early years and primary. In response to the Review, we are also exploring assessment approaches so we can better understand need, measure progression and shape our offer effectively.

Thank you for writing. I hope that this response is useful and I look forward to working with this wider coalition to take this forward.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Gould". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and legible.

Georgia Gould OBE MP
Minister for School Standards