

APPENDIX 3 - PLYMOUTH ORACY PROJECT



1.0 Introduction to Plymouth Teaching School Alliance's Plymouth Oracy Project (from the DFE Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) Application). The SSIF is a central government grant of £56 million designed to help schools improve performance and raise attainment.

The Plymouth Oracy Project involves 31 eligible schools and 19 other schools across the city.

'Oracy is what the school does to support the development of children's capacity to use speech to express their thoughts and communicate with others, in education and in life.' (Alexander, 2016 cited in Menzies and Millard, 2016).

Empirical evidence and local data identified a link between poverty, language development and learning. There is a causal relationship between oracy and progress and attainment, behaviour, social mobility, mental health, & parental engagement.

The project will improve teachers' theoretical and pedagogical understanding of dialogic talk for learning, with a particular focus on disadvantaged pupils' oracy development and educational outcomes. Other performance indicators include pupil attendance, maths reasoning, reading, writing, and, in the second phase, parental engagement.

We will draw from expertise from Oracy Cambridge, School 21, and experts who have led 'Language for Learning', Bradford and 'Talk of the Town', Stevenage. We will base the project on existing collaborative teaching projects across schools in Plymouth, S2S support through specially trained SLEs and external evaluation from Plymouth Marjon University. In addition, to promote a regional focus and prepare for scalability, SLEs will be trained from other TSAs so that Plymouth Teaching School Alliance can become an effective and active hub in the South West for oracy development.

The project adopts an expert input and collaborative research model ensuring cost-effectiveness and sustainability; the input is relatively low-cost; the collaboration and subsequent research/practice development projects will lead to long-term change in practice and forms the basis of up-scaling the project to a further 116 eligible schools who have expressed interest.

Funding will enable eligible schools to receive bespoke support through trained SLEs and expert practitioners, plus backfill to attend training and participate in collaborative projects. Plymouth Marjon University have offered cost-effective project evaluation and opportunities for some participants to engage with further research and Masters accreditation with a reduced fee.

1.1 The Plymouth Oracy Project Actions to Date

All actions are on track to be completed by the end of the project in April 2019 and all milestones have been achieved. During the last monitoring feedback submission, the DFE have rated the project as green and are therefore happy with the successes and outcomes to date.

All CPD delivery has been completed for both primary and secondary schools. This has received very positive evaluations throughout the whole of the project, however these have improved even further in the secondary sector with the provision of secondary specific CPD events and a new secondary cluster has been formed.

The dissemination event is booked for 3rd April 2019 from 1pm and all schools have been invited to attend. As we have a room with capacity for 250 people, the invitation has now been shared for all schools across the city to attend. In addition to schools, the Local Authority, DFE, and some Teaching School Leads are attending. The Education Minister and Regional Schools Commissioner have also been invited but attendance is yet to be confirmed. This event will open with a key note from Jean Gross and include project results from Plymouth Marjon University, as well as the launch of the new PTSA Oracy Hub (and associated training opportunities this can provide). This will also be disseminated at the Regional Teaching School meeting in February 2019.

Evidence Based Model Delivered:

- Regular, quality CPD provision from proven projects nationally
- Bespoke and directed School to School support from trained SLEs (Oracy Champions)
- Cluster Network Meetings
- The Plymouth Oracy Matrix (Assessment Document)
- An Oracy Resource Pack
- A range of activities for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools delivered from a research starting point.
- No scheme of work – every school is different.

1.2 The Plymouth Oracy Project Interim Outcomes

- Accelerated CLL progress in EYFS, particularly speaking and listening. Disadvantaged pupils are making **more** progress and significantly closing the gap.
- Evidence of improved attendance in year groups where Oracy was a focus.
- Evidence in subject areas that disadvantaged pupils are making greater progress and therefore closing the attainment gap (especially writing at Primary, reading and maths at Secondary).
- Rapid progress in Oracy skills when assessed using the Plymouth Oracy Assessment Matrix.

As a result of these interim findings, 8 case study schools have been selected and Plymouth Marjon University are currently working with schools to present these case studies. The focus for the case studies include: Early Years, EAL, SEN, Across MAT collaboration, attendance, cross-curricular approaches, collaboration and pedagogy in secondary schools and parental engagement.

1.3 The Plymouth Oracy Project Future Plans

There will be a new PTSA Oracy Hub which will be cross phase and separate EYFS/Primary/Secondary opportunities will be provided, as appropriate. A number of the PTSA SLE team, who are trained Oracy Champions, will support the hub, with PTSA leading the strategic hub board. Initial support will include a possible city-wide transition event in the summer term, developing further support with parental engagement and a further research project with EYFS and language development and acquisition.

How can schools and TSA/MATs become involved in Oracy development?

- PTSA have used knowledge and experience from the SSIF1 Oracy project to develop an evidence based, one-year CPD offer to schools, that could be delivered on a large scale to MATs and TSA schools.
- This includes 5 CPD days, provision of published resources and an assessment support tool.
- Further SLE support can be provided to train other TSA SLEs to deliver bespoke Oracy support for schools involved in the CPD.
- Attendance at PTSA Oracy Hub Open Meetings and any related CPLD conferences.

1.4 Invitation to The Plymouth Oracy Project Dissemination Event



CPLD Opportunity for all Plymouth School Phases: The Plymouth Oracy Project Dissemination Event

There is an opportunity for Plymouth Schools to join The Plymouth Oracy Project's Dissemination event on **Wednesday 3rd April from 1pm at Plymouth Marjon University.**

Key Information:

We are excited to announce that **Jean Gross** will provide a key note address at this PTSA Oracy event. Jean Gross is an education expert who has led many national initiatives aimed at improving the learning, attainment and wellbeing of disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs. Jean also has significant experience and expertise with communication and language and is a national expert within oracy development.

In addition to Jean's keynote, Plymouth Marjon University will be sharing the significant outcomes of the DFE SSIF funded oracy project, with the 30 eligible schools involved.

There will also be an opportunity to find out information about the new PTSA Oracy Hub and how your school can access research led, high-quality, proven Oracy CPLD from September 2019.

Date: Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Time: 1pm – 4.30pm

Venue: Desmond Tutu Centre, Plymouth Marjon University

Spaces at this CPLD event are extremely limited.

Please book your place on the booking link below to confirm your place now.

www.plymouthteachingschool.co.uk/events/the-plymouth-oracy-project-dissemination-event/

Please note: This event is **FREE OF CHARGE** but prior booking is essential.



Facilitating **collaboration** and **continually improving** educational **standards**.

<http://www.plymouthteachingschool.co.uk/events/the-plymouth-oracy-project-dissemination-event/>

1.5 The Plymouth Oracy Project Glossary of Terms

CLL	- Communication, Language and Literacy
CPD Days	- These Continuing Professional Development Days are the core learning days for teachers on the Plymouth Oracy Project. They are research led training days.
CPLD	- Continuing Professional Learning Day
EAL	- English as an Additional Language
EYFS	- Early Years Foundation Stage
LLE	- Local Leader of Education. A Headteacher of a good or outstanding school, with at least 3 years of experience, can apply to be an LLE.
MAT	- Multi-Academy Trust
PTSA	- Plymouth Teaching School Alliance
QA	- Quality Assurance
S2S	- School to School Support

- School 21 - A 4-18 school in Stratford, East London which has developed a series of pedagogies and approaches that give students the chance to find their voice and develop deep knowledge and understanding Oracy.
- SEN - Special Educational Need
- SLE/PLE - Specialist Leader of Education/ Plymouth Leader of Education
- SSIF - Strategic School Improvement Fund
- TSA - Teaching School Alliance