



## Talk Circles Implementation Guidance

### What are Talk Circles?

At Voice 21, our mission is to transform the learning and life chances of young people through talk so that all children can use their voice for success in school and in life. In order to support your school in working towards this mission, we have designed 'Talk Circles', a set of ready-to-use oracy teacher training materials which can be used to support the development of high-quality oracy teaching practice throughout your school.

### What topics do Talk Circles cover?

#### 1. Introducing Oracy.

This session aims to introduce the key ideas of learning *through* and *to* talk, how different talk contexts require different expectations and how the Oracy Framework underpins all of this.

#### 2. Paired Talk.

This session considers how high quality paired talk can be supported and appraised by teachers and introduces the Oracy Teacher Benchmarks as a tool to develop classroom practice.

#### 3. Group Discussion.

This session focuses on developing independent, small group discussion through scaffolds such as Discussion Guidelines, Student Talk Tactics and Talk Detectives. It also provides an opportunity to introduce or review the Oracy Teacher Benchmarks.

#### 4. Teacher Talk.

This session considers how talk can support learning and explores the teacher's role in developing classroom dialogue, introducing Teacher Talk Tactics as a resource to support this. It also provides an opportunity to introduce or review the Oracy Teacher Benchmarks.

### What resources are provided?

Inside each Talk Circle folder, you will find a comprehensive facilitator guide, video clip commentaries, session handouts and a PPT slide deck designed to support you to lead engaging and impactful oracy professional development.

Talk Circles have been designed to encourage professional dialogue about oracy, whilst also introducing key oracy teaching practices. As such, each Talk Circle models a range of oracy teaching approaches in action. These are highlighted in the facilitator's notes, for example '*modelled approach: trio discussion*', providing your team with a range of practical strategies they can use in their classrooms immediately.

It is important to remember that the videos are not provided as perfect examples of talk contexts, but their aim is to support reflection and stimulate discussion within your schools.

### **How could Talk Circles be implemented?**

Talk Circles are not designed to be a 'one-size fits all' approach to developing oracy practice in schools. In order to deliver them successfully, you will need to critically engage with the resources and adapt them to meet the needs of your individual context.

Each Talk Circle is intended to be approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. However, they have been created with flexibility in mind and can be taught in discrete parts to fit in with your school CPD plan and time available. They can be used as whole school professional development or in much smaller groups, for example phase or year group teams.

Talk Circles can be delivered as whole sessions in sequential order. Alternatively, following 'Talk Circle 1: Introducing Oracy', you could deliver the other sessions in an order that better suits your school priorities.

It is important to note that the 'Next Steps' slide in each Talk Circle presentation is intended as a guide only and that as a school, you need to decide the most appropriate ways to move things forward in your context. It might also help to consider the following questions: can staff work collaboratively on the next steps? Are there opportunities for staff to observe each other, give feedback and reflect together? Is there an opportunity to share learning from next steps?

All presentations can be downloaded and edited, so that you can adapt or add content to meet the specific needs of your context.

### **Before starting:**

- Look through all the Talk Circle presentations to get an overview of all the material.
- Identify key priorities for your school staff.
- Decide whether to deliver whole or part of Talk Circle session materials and decide on the most appropriate order in which to share them.
- Edit any slides to include content that better fits your school context.
- Decide on concrete next steps and how these are to be implemented and reviewed.

We hope you find using Talk Circles a successful step in developing a high quality oracy education in your context.