Communication Curriculum

🎯 Our Curriculum Intent

At Great Arley School, we are committed to providing high-quality communication opportunities that enable all students to:

- Develop effective communication methods to the best of their abilities.
- Develop social interaction skills to the best of their abilities.

At Great Arley our Communication Friendly Status ensures communication learning is embedded to ensure pupils have positive relationships with adults, feel valued and where those who are most vulnerable are identified and supported.

We provide a safe, supportive and communication friendly learning environment to enable pupils to develop the confidence to express their needs and wants, ask questions, challenge information, draw on their experiences, express their views and implement what they have learnt into practice in their own lives.

🗂️ Curriculum Overview

In the Primary Phase, our communication curriculum follows the Equals framework, supporting diverse learning needs through structured, meaningful activities. We embed ELKLAN principles to ensure staff use evidence-based strategies that promote speech, language, and communication development. Pupils are supported to express themselves, interact socially, and understand language in everyday contexts. Visual aids, structured interactions, and vocabulary-rich environments foster confidence and independence. Communication is integrated across all subjects to ensure consistency and relevance.

In Key Stages 3 and 4, communication learning is guided by the Equals framework and ELKLAN principles to support diverse needs. Pupils build functional communication skills for independence, social interaction, and everyday decision-making. Staff use evidence-based strategies to develop speech, language, and understanding across subjects. Careers education includes opportunities to practise workplace communication and explore future pathways. Communication is embedded throughout to prepare pupils for life beyond school.

🛠️ Skills and Knowledge Students Develop

1. **Listening and attention** – developing the ability to focus, filter distractions, and respond appropriately to spoken language.
2. **Understanding spoken language** – interpreting vocabulary, sentence structure, and meaning in everyday and academic contexts.
3. **Expressive language** – using words, phrases, and sentences to convey thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
4. **Initiating interactions** – starting conversations or social exchanges confidently and appropriately.
5. **Turn-taking in conversation** – recognising when to speak and when to listen, promoting balanced dialogue.
6. **Using non-verbal communication** – interpreting and using gestures, facial expressions, and body language effectively.
7. **Asking and answering questions** – using questions to gain information and responding with relevant answers.
8. **Repairing communication breakdowns** – recognising when a message hasn't been understood and rephrasing or clarifying.
9. **Understanding social rules of communication** – adapting language and behaviour to suit different social contexts and audiences.
10. **Building vocabulary for emotional literacy** – learning and using words to describe feelings, thoughts, and experiences to support wellbeing and relationships.

🌍 Careers and Cross-Curricular Connections

Cross curricular links

Pupils' communication needs are addressed throughout all subject areas.

There is a key focus on social communication development within the PSHE and Citizenship scheme of work.

Careers

Links with careers in PSHE and Citizenship are embedded in the schemes of work.

Pupils will be supported to communicate effectively with employers and employees and have the opportunity in year 11 to experience workplaces and further and higher education.

Enrichment

Educational visits provide real-life contexts for pupils to practise ELKLAN-supported social communication strategies, such as initiating conversations, asking questions, and expressing preferences. Interactions with unfamiliar people and environments help reinforce language understanding and expressive skills, building confidence and independence beyond the classroom.