



**Archdiocese of Birmingham**  
**Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy**  
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Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Year 6 English Speaking Board – Level 1 Award in Speech (Grade 1)**

We are excited to share the news that entry for the English Speaking Board (ESB) Level 1 Award in Speech (Grade 1) has been booked for the children in Year 6 for 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Your child will be entered for the Level 1 Award in Speech (Grade 1) assessment which builds confidence in speaking, reading and listening for Year 4 children. The qualification recognises that every child is unique, constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. The session is taken in groups of six children accompanied by the class teacher.

There are 4 sections to the session and the session lasts approximately 13 minutes in total:

**Section 1: Talk – Free Choice**

Children present a topic of personal interest. For example, they may talk about a hobby, an outdoor pursuit or sport they play or follow, a personal achievement such as a qualification, badge or prize or a contemporary issue such as conservation, recycling or space exploration.

They should support their talk by using relevant visual/audio material. **This section will be introduced to the children in school. Please support your child by helping them to choose their topic and practice this at home.**

**Section 2: Speaking by Heart**

Children begin by introducing their chosen poem or piece of drama and explaining what it means to them. They will then recite their memorised choice, sharing the content with the group and the assessor.

**Section 3: Reading Aloud**

Children should prepare 12-15 pages (containing dialogue) of a book, from which the assessor will choose an extract to be read aloud. Children must also introduce the book, explaining its appeal.

**Section 4: Listening and Responding**

Children answer questions from the group and the assessor at any time. They will also participate in a group discussion, joining in with comments and questions.

We are really happy to be offering this opportunity to your children who have all already grown so much in confidence in terms of their speaking and listening skills. The main feedback on all assessments last year, to assist children to get to the next mark level, was to look up at the audience more regularly whilst reading. Please help support your child by encouraging this during practice at home.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Rathbone.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Catalano  
English Lead

If you require this information in any other format, please contact the school office.

