

# Talking Point

– guidance for pupils to help lead discussions at home –

## Why is talking at home important?

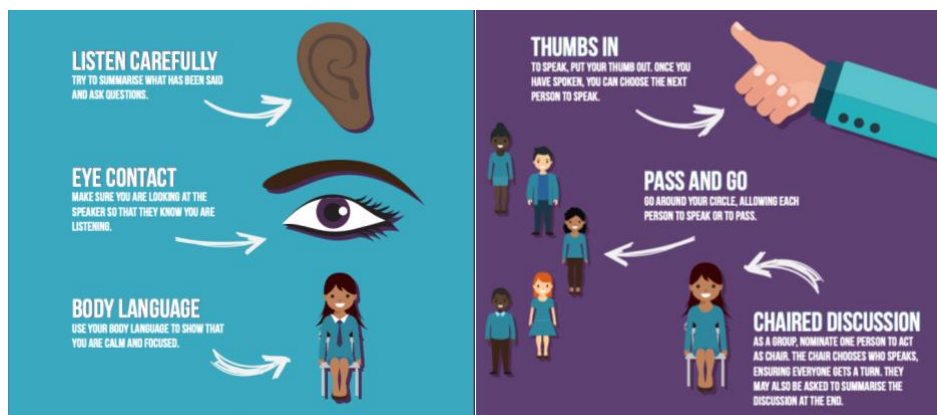
**At Barr Beacon School**, we want you to be **proud to be yourself** and for you to present yourself and your ideas with **pride** and **clarity**. This means that when communicating you will need to speak **professionally**, with **thought** and in formal **Standard English**.

There are lots of ways to start purposeful conversations at home, be it through discussions, debates, presentations or even quizzes! Every opportunity that you have to engage with speaking activities will help ‘empower [you] to better understand [yourself], each other and the world around [you].’ (Voice 21)

## Top tips for Talking at Home:

**Ground rules:** It is important to **establish ground rules** for both you and your family/conversation group. Clear expectations for listening and speaking can make having discussions more effective and more purposeful. **No devices, mobile phones or distractions** should be an enforced rule to provide you with some **focused time to talk...and listen to one another**.

Here are some ways you could ensure that this happens:



## Some suggestions for getting started:

Finding opportunities to talk are key to quality discussions however time can be found at **unexpected times** and in a variety of **settings**:

- A daily walk
- Weekly supermarket trips/queues
- At breakfast time/dinner time/family meal time
- A scheduled daytime break when the whole family stop their work for 20 minutes to ‘take a break’
- A routine for talking opportunities: ‘Talking Tuesdays’
- **But...remember to enforce the rule for no distractions**

Favourite subjects and school work can be the basis of great conversations when starting out. Alternatively consider some of these 'concept cards' which build on topical content:

**Speaking "Clearly and Confidently" – being proud to succeed at Barr Beacon**

**Sarina:** It's a fact that research shows black university graduates go on to earn, on average, 23.1% less than white ones. But this is also the case for gender too with women earning 9% less than men. Does this mean society is lacking equality in lots of ways?

**Josh:** Does the UK need a Black Lives Matter campaign? I thought things had improved and were more equal now anyway...and that the problem was mainly in America.

**Marcus:** 'At face value many of the issues linked to race might seem like "moans" rather than actual race related problems. However, they add to a feeling that already exists – a feeling that makes you feel as if you're inferior in society.'

**MEGAN:** I wonder if pulling down this statue in Bristol, which was a sign of protest, will change the situation in the long term?

**'Racism in Britain is, sadly, as present as ever.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/37715090/that-black-british-feeling-does-the-uk-need-black-lives-matter>

### Keeping the conversation going:

Consider asking questions, 'explain what you mean by...,' as a way of extending talk and consolidating points that are being discussed.

Asking 'Can you tell me more about...?' or 'Why do you think...?' can help involve conversation group members.

You could even pose a new challenge by saying 'I wonder if...,' as this can help move talk on or develop ideas further.

You could even allocate each other a discussion role:

<p><b>Instigator</b></p> <p>Starts the discussion or opens up a new topic for discussion</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>I would like to start by saying ... I think we should consider ... We haven't yet talked about ... Let's also think about ...</p>	<p><b>Prober</b></p> <p>Digs deeper into the argument, asks for evidence or justification of ideas</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>What do you think would be the effect of ...? Why do you think ...? Can you provide an example to support what you are saying?</p>	<p><b>Challenger</b></p> <p>Gives reasons to disagree or presents an alternative argument</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>I disagree with you because ... You mentioned X but what about ... To challenge you X, I think ... I understand your point of view, but have you thought about ...?</p>
<p><b>Clarifier</b></p> <p>Simplifies and makes things clearer by asking questions</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>What do you mean when you say ...? Can you explain a bit more about ...? Does that mean ...? Please can you clarify what you meant by ...?</p>	<p><b>Summariser</b></p> <p>Identifies the main ideas from the discussion. This might be during the discussion, to help move the conversation forward, or at the end of the discussion.</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>Overall, the main points were ... The main ideas raised today were ... Our discussion focused on ... The three main things we talked about were ...</p>	<p><b>Builder</b></p> <p>Develops, adds to or runs with an idea</p> <p><b>Will say:</b></p> <p>I agree, and would like to add... Building on that idea, I think ... Linking to what X said, I think...</p>