



The emphasis of The Spoken World workshops is that of utilising spoken word poetry as a way of developing vocal reasoning skills and enabling the participants to communicate thoughts and ideas in a clear, concise way.

The workshops are not aimed towards the passive, those taking part will be encouraged to employ critical thinking, work in groups, develop a performance and discuss social concepts.

Although the workshops are performance related they will not be solely accessible for those studying drama, indeed they aim to cover many curriculum subjects with a view to support teachers and pupils alike.

How then can Spoken World workshops fit within the current curriculum? How can a form of art that has its basis in free thinking, radical thought, social awareness and competition place itself within the hegemony of an education system?

The Spoken World utilises spoken word poetry as a way of employing critical thinking practices, encouraging cooperation through work in groups, developing a performance through learnt practices and the ability to discuss social concepts. The workshops aim to develop soft skills whilst at the same time encourage strong oratory abilities. These abilities have been recognised as important developmental skills not only by the department for education but also by the Education Secretary. It can be seen therefore that the planned programme of workshops will support current school practices.

Through supportive and developmental workshops tied into the ideas of self-exploration as well as cultural and social awareness, the workshops are linked strongly within the ideals of 'Britishness' through SMCE, positivity, inclusion, self-awareness and confidence (all elements of soft skills).

There are a number of subjects that Spoken World workshops can cover from the obvious (English language) to SMSC. It has also been highlighted that spoken word/poetry can encourage pupils who otherwise would struggle with literacy. Many of the important

concepts, strategies, and skills taught as part of the workshops are portable. Skills practiced can transfer readily to other content areas encouraging cross curricular practices.

As highlighted in a number of reports from Ofsted, the Education Secretary and the National Literacy Trust, poetry and spoken word is seen a beneficial to young people not only in the development of literacy but as already mentioned also in the development of soft skills and social awareness. Finally, there is the argument that a surge in spoken word and poetry within popular culture highlights a need for it to not only be kept within the curriculum, but actively encouraged.

Young people should be encouraged to take a critical look at the world around them and be given the opportunity to voice their concerns/thoughts in a way that allows freedom of thought.

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The Spoken World