

# What is Oracy, and How Can it Help You and Your School?

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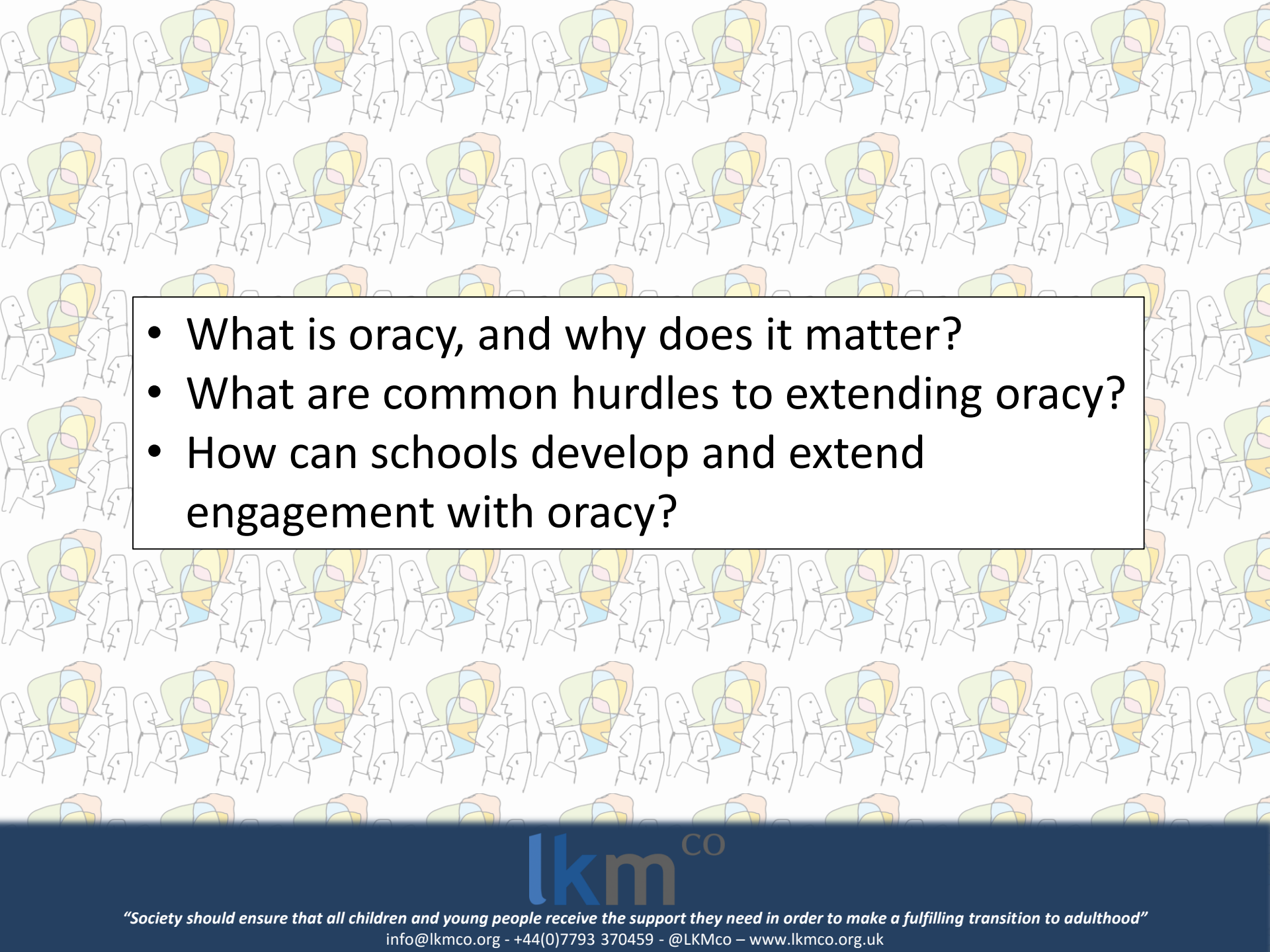
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- 
- What is oracy, and why does it matter?
  - What are common hurdles to extending oracy?
  - How can schools develop and extend engagement with oracy?

Oracy

## The State of Speaking in Our Schools

Will Millard and Loic Menzies



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# What is oracy?

1. 'Oracy' is just another term for 'speaking and listening'
2. Oracy is something pupils do, not teachers
3. Pupils need to be quiet if they are going to learn



# What is oracy?

‘Learning to talk’

‘Learning through talk’

Teachers and pupils

Generic and subject-specific



# Why does oracy matter?

Social and  
emotional skills

Language and  
communication

Cognition

Job prospects

Social mobility

Engagement and  
empowerment



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# What does evidence say?

Reading comprehension  
(McKeown and Beck)

P4C, and KS2  
reading and maths  
(Gorard et al.)

TDTs, and  
attainment in  
science  
(Hanley et al.)

Mathematical  
understanding  
(O'Connor et al.)

Science and maths  
knowledge and  
retention, and  
English  
(Adey and Shayer)

Smith et al.  
evaluation of Voice  
21, forthcoming  
(summer 2018)

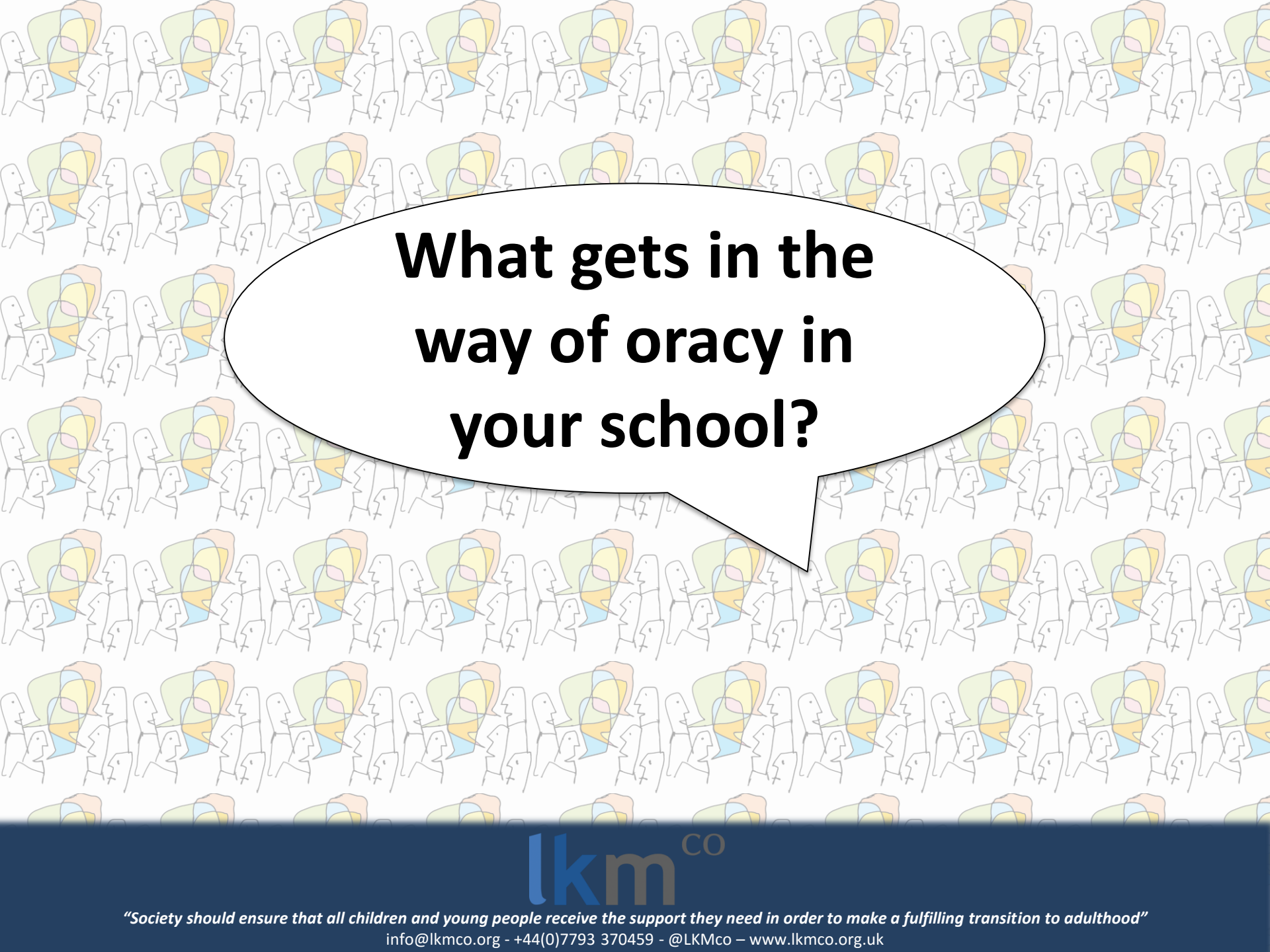




# Caveats

- Pupils need to develop domain-specific vocabulary and knowledge if they are going to become confident writers and orators.
- It is very important we are clear about what we mean by ‘oracy’ and what we want from it.





# What gets in the way of oracy in your school?



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# What gets in the way of oracy?

Time (31%)

Anxiety about pupils (21%)

Prioritising other tasks (18%)

School leaders (4%)

Confidence, skills and information (>50%)



# How do schools support oracy?

Time

Prioritising  
other tasks

Anxiety about  
pupils

School leaders

Confidence and  
skills



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# What next?

What would be the benefits in your school of developing oracy?

What will be likely challenges in developing oracy in your school?

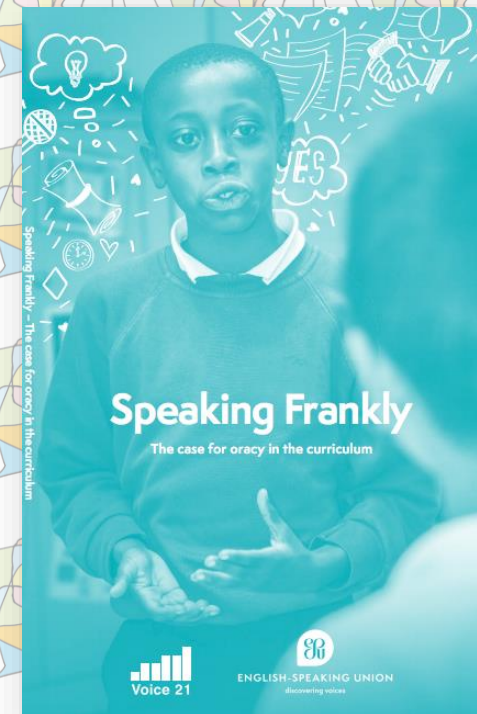
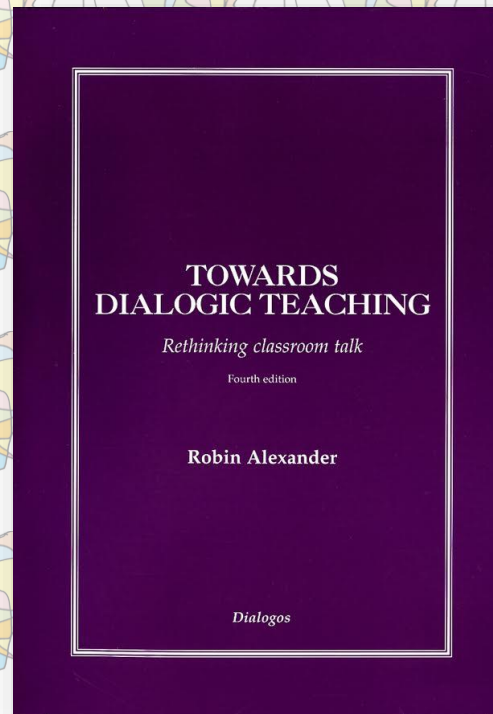
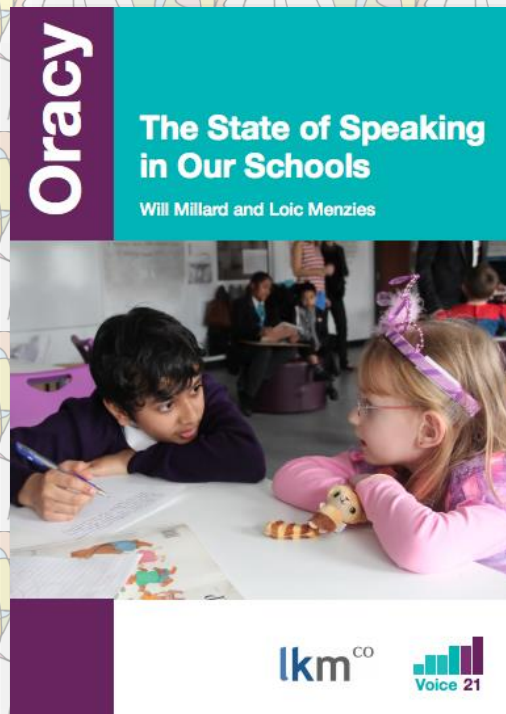
How might you begin to address these?



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# Where can I find out more?



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**Any comments**

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