Discussion Progression

KS1: Children should: choose and discuss topics, which have opposing viewpoints; role play different dilemmas to understand how decisions can be difficult; and debate questions linking to personal experiences.

YEAR 3 Building on KS1:

Orally rehearse different sides of an argument.

Provide a title, which offers a question.

Include an opening sentence to introduce a discussion topic.

Use words to link sentences, which support a statement.

Use words to show the opposite point of view.

Use words to order points that are being made.

Sum up your thoughts with words and phrases to show your point of view.

Write in the first person to convey opinion.

YEAR 4 Building on Y3:

Use vocabulary to link and structure paragraphs.

Use different sentence types and punctuation to convey information in a clear and accessible way.

Add information within sentences to provide detail.

Use vocabulary to show how likely/popular something is.

Build on a point by using vocabulary to link arguments.

Include a mix of punctuation to include the reader and to emphasise key points.

Use a range of vocabulary and phrases to help show both sides of an opinion.

YEAR 5 Building on Y4:

Research and understand different perspectives in a less familiar discussion topic.

Introduce the topic with an explanation about why it is relevant now.

Provide evidence to support points.

Offer an opinion on a topic.

Use a range and variety of sentence types to provide engaging information.

Include short sentences for effect.

Open sentences in a range of different ways to interest the reader.

YEAR 6 Building on Y5:

Use examples to back up points, which range from general opinions to specific opinions.

Report on information and opinions given by others.

Include passive sentences to add a level of formality.

Use conditional and hypothetical sentences to convey expertise.

Use language to make views seem reasonable and objective.

Utilise a range of different phrases to help conclude in an interesting and wellinformed manner.