

1 July 2026

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Oral language is an important and required part of the English Curriculum for students in Years 7-9. Throughout the year, students take part in a range of speaking activities, which may include speeches, debates, group presentations, dramatic readings, class discussions, and presenting their learning to an audience.

These activities are not optional extras. They form an important part of classroom learning and often contribute to formal assessment results. As per the **New Zealand English Curriculum**, students are expected to:

- Present an individual presentation that shows their understanding of audience and purpose
- Select an appropriate oral communication form
- Explore presentation strategies
- Use confident delivery techniques such as tone, pace, volume, body language
- Practise their delivery to develop clarity, timing, and confidence
- Clearly stating and defending a position or view point
- Anticipating and responding to counter-arguments or alternative perspectives
- Organising ideas logically and coherently to suit the format and audience

[English Phase 3 Oral Language – Years 7-8](#)

[English Phase 4 Language Studies – Years 9-10](#)

These are essential skills that students will need throughout secondary school, further study, employment, and everyday life. Many students may initially feel nervous and uncomfortable when speaking in front of others. This is a normal part of learning to present. Confidence develops through careful preparation, regular practice, and repeated opportunities to speak in front of an audience. Choosing not to participate can result in a non-assessment and the inability to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

Students will be given clear instructions, guidance, preparation time, and opportunities to practice before presenting. They are expected to use this time responsibly, meet the required deadlines, and participate fully in the preparation process.

We ask that parents and caregivers support us by encouraging their child to:

- Prepare adequately and complete work within the given timeframe
- Practise their presentation at home
- Make use of preparation time provided in class
- Attempt to participate fully in oral language activities

Thank you for supporting us in this regard. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Many thanks / Nga Mihi,
Michael McKenzie
Deputy Principal Middle Years
michael.mckenzie@elim.school.nz