

Talk for Writing Development Project

Building Capacity and Sustaining Improvement

Talk for Writing works best as a whole-school approach. Evidence indicates that to develop and embed any approach effectively, schools should commit to a sequence of training and support over several terms or years. One-off 'introductory days', while enjoyable for staff, rarely lead to transformational change if they are not followed up with focused support with your school leadership team. This is essential to build your school's capacity to develop the staff practices and create the whole-school systems required to sustain improvements over time – this is the key to success in raising standards!

The aims of the development programme are:

- to transform the teaching of reading and writing across the whole school;
- to embed the **Talk for Writing/Reading** teaching sequence into the English curriculum;
- to improve the quality of teaching in English;
- to build and strengthen leadership capacity and develop sustainable whole-school systems;
- to increase the proportion of children reaching age-related expectations and greater depth in reading, writing and grammar;
- to increase the proportion of children reporting positive attitudes for reading and writing.

Effective Support Strategy

1. Initial strategic planning:

- establish the school's current baseline;
- identify the school's strengths;
- plan targeted inputs that address your school's specific needs.

2. Ongoing consultancy review:

- track progress and adjust plans as necessary;
- offer ongoing leadership support and development.

3. Final evaluation:

- assess the impact on children's outcomes;
- embed improvements into the school's learning culture for lasting results.

In keeping with the principles of formative assessment, the content of the development programme will be flexible so that, as it develops, it can be adapted to fit the needs of the school.

The centrality of Project Teams to the success of projects:

Project Teams are crucial to the success of the **Talk for Writing**. The Project Team provides the school with internal expertise so that the whole staff can be supported in developing the methodologies. The Project Team must include the Headteacher, leading members of staff, as well as any Phase Leaders that will be responsible for driving the principles back in school.

The Talk for Writing (TfW) Development Programme

The following development programme breaks down the training and consultancy support into four core phases. Whilst it is strongly recommended that schools complete all modules to ensure there is depth of knowledge and understanding, these can be bought separately and tailored to any specific needs:

- Phase 1 – Creating Fiction Writers
- Phase 2 – Creating Non-Fiction Writers
- Phase 3 – Developing Independence and Creativity
- Additional Consultancy – Refining Systems, Practices and Culture

Phase 1 – Creating Fiction Writers

Project Team Day 1 – Leadership development and school evaluation

- Share overview of project.
- Establish Project Team’s roles and responsibilities.
- Complete joint audit of current provision.
- Provide overview of TfW teaching sequence in fiction.
- Establish the basics and prepare for the project.

INSET day 1 (Whole school training) – Creating Storytellers and Writers

- Explore how to teach fiction across the primary school.
- Contextualise the TfW teaching sequence.
- Plan for Shared and Guided **Invention** in EYFS.
- Develop depth of understanding in **Imitation** through to **Innovation**.

Project Team Day 2 – Preparing the curriculum

- Begin to map out whole-school curriculum overview.
- Plan fiction units with a focus on using the toolkit and grammar expectations, linked to daily short-burst writing.

Project Team Day 3 – Refining practices and systems

- Carry out learning walk to see TfW in action across the school.
- Model teaching of SBW in KS1 and UKS2.
- Evaluate the strength of the teaching sequence in books.
- Draw up development plan with the Project Team and discuss next steps.

Project Team Day 4 – Leadership review and EYFS training

- Review school and self-evaluate the non-negotiables.
- Review the teaching of fiction.
- Model story **Invention** in Early Years.
- Deliver training for Project Team and EY phase leaders in TfW in Early Years.

- 4 days of in-school consultancy support
- 1 day of INSET for staff (up to 50 people)

4 x £850
1 x £1250

Total cost: £4650
+ VAT and travel expenses



Phase 2 – Creating Non-Fiction Writers

Project Team Day 1 - Preparing the curriculum

- Provide overview of TfW teaching sequence in non-fiction.
- Begin to map out whole-school curriculum overview.
- Plan non-fiction units with a focus on using the toolkit and grammar expectations, linked to daily short-burst writing.

INSET day 1 (Whole school training) – Creating Non-Fiction Writers

- Explore how to teach non-fiction across the primary school.
- Contextualise the TfW teaching sequence.
- Build understanding of **Independent Application** across the curriculum.

Project Team Day 2 – Refining practices and systems

- Carry out learning walk to see TfW in action across the school.
- Model teaching of **Reading as a Reader/Writer**.
- Evaluate the strength of the teaching sequence in books.
- Draw up development plan with the Project Team and discuss next steps.

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| • 2 days of in-school consultancy support | 2 x £850 | Total cost: £2950 + VAT and travel expenses |
| • 1 day of INSET for staff (up to 50 people) | 1 x £1250 | |

Phase 3 – Developing Independence and Creativity

Project Team Day 1 – Leadership development and school evaluation

- Model teaching of shared writing in different phases.
- Reflect on the use of toolkits across the school.
- Talk to children and teachers about being writers.
- Analyse outcomes in books (cold to hot) to see impact evidence of independence.
- Develop understanding of shared writing, levels of sophistication and effective feedback.

INSET day 1 (Whole school training) – Driving Independence and Creativity

- Reflect on the importance of short-burst writing linked to the toolkits.
- Explore levels of sophistication through **Innovation** and **Independent Application**.
- Deepen understanding of **Invention** in EYFS.
- Plan for **Invention** opportunities across the school to promote creativity and choice.

Project Team Day 2 – Leadership school evaluation

- Review the audit of TfW across the school.
- Carry out a learning walk to see TfW in action and review quality of washing lines.
- Analyse outcomes in books (cold to hot) to see impact evidence of independence.
- Plan next steps to ensure there is ongoing improvement.

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Additional Consultancy – Refining Systems, Practices and Culture

Bespoke Project Team Days – Leadership development and school evaluation

Time spent with a TfW consultant to review key elements of the teaching sequence and offer leadership support and development. These days might include:

- Modelling teaching.
- Carrying out learning walks with senior leaders.
- Reflecting on the curriculum.
- Supporting planning of units.
- Evaluating written outcomes in books.

Schools shall be left with an action plan to support next steps.

- 1 day of in-school consultancy support

1 x £850

Total cost: £850
+ VAT and travel expenses

Costs and payment

The total cost of a 3-phase project for up to 50 staff is £5,275 per school year (based on 2-year implementation) or £10,550 in total (plus consultant expenses and VAT).

This is equivalent to around 4 pupil premium payments per year.

For numbers over 50 staff, an additional fee of £50 per staff member is added for each of the INSET days.

Small schools and groups of schools

Small schools are welcome to share the cost of training by joining up with other schools. Sharing training days with other schools can be an excellent way to learn together and share effective practice. The maximum number of schools in any one project is six.

Finding out more about Talk for Writing before signing up

If you would like to find out more about TfW before committing to a development programme, we recommend scheduling a zoom call with one of our consultants. You may also like to:

- Purchase a copy of the core TfW text *Creating Storytellers and Writers*. This book explains the approach and includes access to online videos of teaching and learning.
- Register for one of the introductory courses that we run both online and in-person. These courses give a taster of how TfW works.
- Visit one of the TfW Training Centres or Showcase Schools to see first-hand the impact of the TfW approach.

