



Talk for Writing Training Projects

Building Capacity and Sustaining Improvement

Talk for Writing (TfW) 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 - it is the key to success in raising standards.

Support is also more effective when it includes an initial strategic planning meeting to establish the baseline, identify strengths and plan the focused inputs that meet the needs of your school. In addition, planning well-timed reviews and a final evaluation can also capture the impact on children's outcomes, leading to more sustained improvements embedded into the learning culture of the school.

The importance of a Project Team

In order for the training to be effective, there needs to be a Project Team within each school that is responsible for ensuring that TfW is implemented. When you sign up to a package, the first task is to appoint a Project Team. The Project Team needs to include the Head Teacher and the Literacy Lead.

The consultancy and leadership days will be run with the Project Team. The INSET days will be run with all staff.

The TfW Training Package

Over 6 terms (2 years), schools receive 10 days of training. This comprises:

- 3 INSET days for all school staff (in green below)
- 6 consultancy days of support for the TfW Leadership Team (in blue below)
- 1 day of planning support with staff (in purple below).

After each training day, the school is given gap tasks to complete before the next session.

1. Project Team Day 1 - Leadership school evaluation 1 (full day)

- a. Overview of project
- b. Leadership project team roles and responsibilities
- c. Joint audit of current provision
- d. Overview of TfW teaching sequence in fiction

2. INSET day 1 (full day)

- Fiction and poetry (focus on imitation into innovation)

**3. Project Team Day 2 (full day)**

- a. Whole-school curriculum planning
- b. Plan a fiction unit with consultant with focus on using the toolkit and grammar expectations, linked to daily short-burst writing and grammar games to build confidence with the writing tools
- c. Explore the top 10 stumbling blocks

4. Project Team Day 3 (full day)

- a. Learning walk to see TfW in action across the school.
- b. Model teaching of SBW in KS1 and UKS2
- c. Book look to evaluate the strength of the teaching sequence
- d. Analyse outcomes (cold to hot)
- e. Discuss TfW in UKS2
- f. Draw up development plan with the project team and discuss next steps

5. Project Team Day 4 (full day)

- a. Review the teaching of fiction
- b. Model story Invention in Early Years
- c. Half day training for project team and EY phase leaders/teachers in TfW in Early Years
- d. Application of the TfW teaching sequence in non-fiction

6. INSET day 2 (full day)

- Non-fiction and writing across the curriculum

7. Teachers' Planning Workshop (full day)

- Reflect on planning a unit of work with a consultant with a focus on sowing in the toolkit and grammar expectations. Make links to daily short-burst writing and grammar games to build confidence with the writing tools. Focus year groups or phases to be agreed with the school.

8. Project Team Day 5**Leadership school review and evaluation 2 (full day)**

- a. Review school and self-evaluate 'non negotiables'
- b. Learning walk to see TfW in action across the school
- c. Book look/talk to children and teachers
- d. Analyse outcomes (cold to hot)
- e. Leadership training - focus on shared writing and feedback on effect

9. INSET day 3 (full day)

- a. Developing short-burst writing
- b. Explore levels of Innovation
- c. Independent application across the curriculum
- d. Invention - creativity & choice

10. Project Team day 6**Leadership school evaluation 3 (full day)**

- a. Auditing Talk for Writing across the school
- b. Learning walk to see TfW in action across the school
- c. Book look/talk to children and teachers
- d. Plan next steps



Costs and payment

The total cost of a two-year project for up to 50 staff is £4850 per school year or £9700 in total over two years (plus trainer expenses and VAT).

This is equivalent to around 3.5 pupil premium payments per year.

Focus of the day	Cost per day	Total cost
6 x Project team days	£850	£5100
3 x INSET	£1250	£3750
1 x Staff planning days	£850	£850
		Total: £9700

For numbers over 50 staff, an additional fee of £50 per staff member is added for each of the three 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 to a project

If you want to find out more about TfW before committing to a training project, we recommend:

- Purchasing 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.
- Registering for one of the introductory courses that we run both online and in-person. These courses give a taster of how TfW works.
- Visiting one of the TfW Training Centres or Showcase Schools to see first-hand the impact of the TfW approach.