

Write Here Write Now creative writing project

Using creative arts to improve literacy levels

Creative arts can stimulate children's imagination and help them bring their ideas to life and provides young people with the confidence to question, to explore, to imagine and to experience which ultimately will have the added benefit of aiding their academic performance.

Each school will identify up to ten Year 3 students that due to low confidence and self-esteem are not reaching their full potential. A Polka Practitioner will work closely within the school by meeting the teachers and students in the Autumn Term to help establish the need and the dynamics of the group. This will enable the Polka Practitioner to tailor-make and prepare a programme of creative activities suited to those students throughout the Spring and Summer Terms.

Each weekly session will consist of a 45-minute practical workshop includes storytelling, role play, improvisations, music & movement plus 30 mins of creating writing to allow the children to recall everything that they have been exploring and include it in their own writing.

Aims of the project

- increase children's creative confidence
- develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by encouraging the children to link what they read or hear to their own experiences
- stimulate creativity and imagination, encouraging children to express ideas and opinions and find ways in which to channel this into their writing
- inspire children not only to read and enjoy listening to stories but to create their own
- support local schools in raising literacy, language and communication skills

Findings from previous years:

- 96% of children had increased confidence after taking part in the WHWN project
- Teachers agreed that 96% of children had improved their creativity ideas and imagination
- Teachers agreed that 90% of children had improved their ability to structure a story or piece of written work
- 85% of children had improved their ability to communicate their ideas

We have noticed an increased level of confidence in all the participants, who contribute more confidently to classroom discussions now, especially in our literacy lessons. They are generally more enthusiastic about writing activities and are finding it easier to organise their ideas. Most of them have exceeded the expected level of progress in reading and writing, which is a wonderful outcome.

Teacher at Poplar Primary School

Most of the children selected were underachieving for a variety of issues, not least social and emotional and lower confidence and self-esteem. Their involvement in the Write Here, Write Now project has impacted this and they are all more confident...The children were free from the pressure to write that the curriculum often places on them and, as a result, their writing improved. Thanks so much for the opportunity!

Teacher at Kings Oak Primary School



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Write Here Write Now Application Form

To apply please complete the following form and return to Polly Simmonds,
Head of Creative Learning: polly@polkatheatre.com by 2nd October 2023

Name of School			
Address			
Contact Name			
Email Address			
Telephone number			
In which London Borough is your school situated?			
What is your school's status?	State-funded	Grant Maintained	Other (please specify)
Does your School have Artsmark status?	YES		NO
What percentage of your pupils are eligible for free school meals?			%
What percentage of your pupils are from Black and Minority Ethnic groups?			%
Approximately what percentage of your pupils have English as an additional language?			%
Approximately what percentage of your pupils have refugee status?			%

We will contact you soon to let you know if your application has been successful.

