

# St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School

## Talk for Writing - our approach

Talk for Writing is an innovative approach to teaching writing developed by the literacy specialist and writer Pie Corbett. It uses high quality model texts to introduce the children to different story/text types, which they then learn off by heart and scrutinize with a writer's critical eye. Talk for Writing is powerful because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. It follows three stages: imitation, innovation and invention.

During the first stage, the children are introduced to a high quality text model that they then learn to retell through words and actions. Children will internalise the pattern of the language and use this when recalling the story. They then translate the actions into pictures and create a story map of the text. Once the language is internalised, they can begin to piece together the key ingredients that help to make it work. This may include a range of reading as-a-reader and as-a-writer activities. To help retell the story we have actions for specific words that we use. These are displayed in classrooms from Nursery to Year 2 to prompt the children when they are recalling the story.

Once the children have internalised the text, they are then ready to start innovating on the pattern of the text. In this stage the original text is adapted by the children. This could start with a change of character, setting or a change in the plot. Changes are made to the original story map and children then start learning to retell their new versions. This is then translated onto paper and children write out their innovated story in manageable sections. Each writing session has a spelling and grammar focus and children are encouraged to reflect over their writing as they go along and to regularly read their work aloud to check it makes sense.

In the final stage, the teacher now has the opportunity to assess the children's work and to adapt their planning in light of what the children can actually do and to cater for next steps. The children use all of the skills they have learned to write an independent piece of writing. They will also have the opportunity to edit and improve their stories from the innovation stage.

Reading is the foundation of writing and children are unable to become great writers if they are not regularly exposed to a broad vocabulary, range of genres, exciting story plots and interesting characters. Children who read for pleasure are also more likely to succeed as writers because of the way reading develops language development.

As we teach the different units in Talk for Writing, together we will create toolkits around different foci to support the children in both fiction and non-fiction writing. They are used when describing characters, a setting and adding action to writing, and also for instructions, a recount and an information text. These are progressive across the year groups and planned out in the progression document.