

Goldsmiths 500 Writers Challenge

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# Enhancing Writing Development from Year 2 to Year 4



In partnership with

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*The*  
**GOLDSMITHS'**  
*Company Charity*

## Get Involved

This fully funded project is aimed at teachers and their pupils in Years 2 to 4 from primary state schools in Bradford with over 22.5% of pupils receiving free school meals.

## Project Aims

Increase the confidence and motivation of young readers/writers, leading to an expected acceleration of progress by:

- harnessing the power of exciting memorable experiences
- exploring an innovative combination of evidence-based teaching approaches

## Why focus on Year 2 to Year 4?

The transition between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 has long been recognised as presenting specific literacy challenges due to a shift in curriculum expectations and pedagogic approaches.

Progress is often hindered by:

- a shift from learning to read to reading to learn
- increased text complexity moving from tightly controlled reading schemes to books with wider language and conceptual demands
- increased use of silent reading which can mask dysfluency as text complexity increases
- a change in curriculum expectations in writing with a clear separation between the development of foundational transcriptional skills in KS1 and a focus on more authorial aspects of writing from Year 4 (KS1 and KS2 TAF)

Previous initiatives have sought to address the stalled progress often reported for Year 3 and Year 4 (ECAW, DCSF, 2009) but no such initiative has been available since the curriculum changed.



## How will the project support pupils and teachers?

- Inspire writing through memorable experiences.
- Deliver CPD focused on developing the reciprocal relationship between reading and writing.
- Utilise an evidence-based approach to designing sequences of learning that can flex to every text type and length of unit.

## Inspiring writing through memorable experiences

- In 2023, nearly 1 in 2 (48.2%) children and young people said they struggled to decide what to write about.
- An EEF-sponsored efficacy trial showed that writing approaches that used a memorable experience helped children to achieve an additional 9 months of progress over the course of a year.
- By taking writing outside the classroom and bringing it to life, we can create a gateway into writing for enjoyment (Clark et al., 2023).

## CPD Content

### Reciprocal relationship between reading and writing.

- Reading fluency techniques and the importance of oral reading for assessing reading on an ongoing basis.
- Use reading techniques to bring writing to life and emphasise how written language is experienced.
- Develop expressive reading to support an increased awareness of the choices available to writers for varied effect.

### Teaching Sequence for Writing.

- Empower teachers to design sequences of learning that can flex to every text type and length of unit.

## Research

The unique longitudinal aspect of this research project will allow us to measure:

- The impact of an innovative combination of evidence-based approaches on a group of pupils and their teachers across 3 years.



## Your school will receive:

### ✓ Staff CPD

Three fully funded cycles of bespoke CPD for your transition teaching team across three years.

### ✓ Cultural visits

A fully funded series of six curated cultural visits for your pupils: two visits per year across three years.

### ✓ Full project support

Project management support to implement the programme and organise the school trips.

### ✓ Impact monitoring

Bespoke reports to track impact in your school.

### ✓ Celebration events

Exclusive celebratory and networking events for your transition teaching team.

### ✓ National Literacy Trust membership

Free premium membership for three years providing access to resources and benefits to support literacy planning and teaching across the whole school, worth £300.

## The CPD programme includes:

- One 30-minute pre-recorded video
- 1 full day of in-person training on Tuesday 14 January 2025
- 1 follow-up 45-minute webinar on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 January 2025
- Peer-to-peer structured online support facilitated in breakout rooms.

## Meet the Team

### Martin Galway

Head of School Programmes at the National Literacy Trust.

Former Teaching and Learning Adviser for the Herts for Learning Primary English Team and leading teacher for English.

### Ki-Li Watkins

Project Manager at the National Literacy Trust.

Experienced primary teacher, school leader and literacy trainer.



## How to sign up

Email: [ki-li.watkins@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:ki-li.watkins@literacytrust.org.uk)

Visit [literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-writers/goldsmiths-500-writers-challenge](https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-writers/goldsmiths-500-writers-challenge) and complete the 'Expression of Interest' form.