

**CATCHING WORDS 2016-17****Doc:** Hertfordshire schools**Summary**

Catching Words is a creative literacy intervention programme for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. Professional Poets, Storytellers and Writers work with a class over the course of 9 weeks to develop literacy skills, confidence, creativity and enjoyment of reading.

**Background**

Catching Words began in 2009, and was developed by Discover with artists Joseph Coelho, Malika Booker and Vicky Martin.

Catching Words has recently been evaluated by the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths University. In the report, Dr Laura Teague writes:

‘[Catching Words] support[s] children’s development of imagination and knowledge in relation to their own production of poetry and stories. Sessions are fun, informative and engaging, enabling children to participate in imaginative word play, talk for writing, drama and discussion. This all supports children in producing high quality written pieces of work.’

**Aims and Objectives**

The overall purpose of the project is to:

- Raise the standards of pupils reading and writing
- Improve spoken word and listening skills in participating children
- Raise the standards of reading comprehension skills in participating children
- Foster a love of stories and reading for pleasure in participating children
- Raise children’s confidence and aspirations
- Provide teachers with the skills and techniques to adopt innovative and effective creative approaches to the teaching of literacy and reading comprehension skills

**Delivery**

There are three stages to the delivery, each featuring a different artist:

Stage one: poetry

A poet works with the children to explore language, focussing on poetry, words and creativity to support pupils to develop their linguistic skills and oracy.



### Stage two: storytelling

A story teller works with children to explore narratives, the components of stories, effective delivery and how to create stories.

### Stage three: writing

A professional writer works with the children to collectively write a story, as a class. The story is facilitated by the writer and created and illustrated by the pupils. The book is then edited, professionally printed, and a copy given to each child.

A Discover **Story Builder** will work with the class throughout the three stages and will co-facilitate every third session with the class teacher. The artists will liaise with the Story Builder and teacher to ensure that all participants are involved and that the sessions are inclusive, constructive and beneficial to the pupils.



### **Visit to Discover**

Catching Words includes a class visit to Discover's new Story World, where children have the chance to explore, engage in creative play and take part in a creative 'story build'.

### **Digital Resources and INSET training**

Catching Words includes a digital resource pack containing session outlines, activity sheets, poetry & story-telling films and films demonstrating story writing techniques. These resources can be used to augment the principles and techniques of Catching Words during existing lesson planning, embedding the ideas throughout the project. Furthermore, during the nine week programme, every third week will see a session **co-facilitated by the teacher and Story Builder**, for which these resources can be pulled upon.

Twilight INSET training will be provided in January 2017 for all participating class teachers, with demonstrations from specialist artists and opportunities to raise any questions or concerns.

### **Teacher's Testimony**

"I picked up lots of hints and tips to help me improve my practice. Also, the children found it really inspiring to work with an actual real life poet and writer."

"Excellent sessions – gave me ideas for making my literacy lessons more creative."

"One child challenged my expectations. He is new to learning English and rarely participates verbally in lessons. However, he has spoken more in these sessions than I have ever heard him speak before."

"I looked forward to sessions – they were imaginative and lead to new learning for both myself and the children in my class"



**Cost**

We have funding to subsidise the cost of Catching Words, however places are strictly limited. The cost to participate is £500 +VAT per class (releasing a further £4500 of funding). This cost includes all INSET, resources, delivery, reciprocal visit to Discover, and the creation and production of the pupils' book.

**How to book**

The eight subsidised places will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Any additional class bookings would need to be charged at a full delivery cost.

To book, or if you have any further questions, please email **[fiona.johnstone@discover.org.uk](mailto:fiona.johnstone@discover.org.uk)** or call **020 8536 5548**.