



TALK FOR WRITING

Beechfield Primary School implemented the Talk for Writing approach to teaching English in September 2020 with the aim to achieve a consistent method across the school where children's vocabulary could be improved and their ideas could be structured in a clear manner.

“We know that linguistically children can't write sentences unless they can say them and they can't say a sentence unless they hear them a lot,” (Pie Corbett).

The Talk for Writing process was created by Pie Corbett, a well-known educationalist and poet. He has been a teacher, head teacher and an OFSTED inspector and is an advisor to the government on educational matters. For more information, click on the link to hear Pie Corbett talking about it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vl2OWdZo6nY>

Talk for Writing enables children to imitate key language they need for a particular topic orally before they attempt to write it. They rehearse the language using a multi-sensory approach involving text-mapping, physical actions and expressive voices. These three strategies all combined, support the children in imitating the style being taught.

The Education Endowment Fund ran a pilot study to assess the impact of this approach to English teaching and found that it brought a consistency across the school in the way that teachers taught English. The teachers who took part, reported their children had become much more confident in writing in different styles and using the correct grammatical features of the various genres. Good impact in progress was found particularly in the younger years with children who were new to English and those with lower than average language development on entry to primary school.

The writing process is made up of 5 stages;

A Cold task – children complete a piece of writing unaided in the style of the genre to be studied so teachers understand what the children are already able to do

Imitation – the children learn a text and the language they need

Innovation – the children adapt the model text with ideas of their own

Invention – the children create their own text using the language and skills that the model taught them

A Hot task – children complete a piece of writing unaided so teachers can assess the progress that has been made throughout the unit of work