**MoS Writing Clubs - A Story of Change (PROJECT)**

Local children have remarkable talents, imaginations and potential.  At this age (8-12), they start to see themselves in relation to family, friends, school, their neighbourhood and the wider world.  They start to write their own story.

However, our children often experience social inequality and division, come from low income families and have a lack of access to creative experiences.  Digital access (or lack of it) has an increasing impact on their opportunities and lives.  English is often the second language spoken at home.  Parents may lack confidence in helping their children with English homework. They attend schools staffed by busy, overstretched teachers where one-to-one attention is often difficult and where teaching mainly focuses on the technical aspects of writing.  Writing can often be perceived by children as difficult or boring, rather than being fun, creative or rewarding.  **(CONTEXT)**

To address this, we provide a safe, inclusive, supportive and consistent space for writing “on the high street”, with inspiring, weekly professionally facilitated workshops that are free of charge and open to all local children after school and at the weekends.  They receive one-to-one support from volunteer writing mentors.  They are encouraged to explore writing beyond the school curriculum and to develop their own ideas, stories and voices. They explore many different forms of and ways in to writing.  They work with professional writers and see their own writing published, produced and shared with real audiences.  **(ACTIVITIES)**

Through these activities, we change children’s attitudes towards writing, by building their confidence, craft and creativity. Children become more personally confident, feel empowered and feel that their ideas and stories matter.  **(CHANGE)** We help children become better communicators and to be more ready to write and learn at school.  We equip them with better writing skills and the support to complete writing tasks and projects.  We want children to have fun writing, to challenge themselves to take creative risks and to inspire them to write more in their own time.  These are the key indicators of change and success that we look for.  **(OUTCOMES)**

Our long-term goal with our writing clubs is that local children are more confident, creative and skilled writers.  **(GOAL)**

**MoS Story of Change (Organisation)**

Children have remarkable talents, imaginations and potential.  Between 8 and 14, they start to see themselves in relation to family, friends, school, their neighbourhood and the wider world.  They start to write their own story.

However, many children in the UK experience social inequality and division, come from low-income families and lack access to creative experiences.  Digital access (or its lack) has an increasing impact on their opportunities and lives.  Some parents may be less confident in helping their children with reading and writing and English homework. They attend schools staffed by busy, overstretched teachers where one-to-one attention is often difficult and where teaching mainly focuses on the technical aspects of writing. Children can begin to see writing as too difficult or boring, rather than being fun, creative or rewarding.  **(CONTEXT)**

To address this, we are building a network of partners across London and nationally in which children are encouraged to explore writing beyond the school curriculum and to develop their own ideas, stories and voices. They can experience many different forms of and ways in to writing.  They see their own writing shared with real audiences.  **(ACTIVITIES)**

Our network is based on 5 core principles: strong community engagement that builds a network of support around children’s writing; inspiring learning environments that make writing fun; one-to-mentoring from trained volunteers; effective, professionally-facilitated workshops and the production and publication of children’s work Through this, we change children’s attitudes towards writing, building their confidence, craft and creativity. Children become more personally confident, feel empowered and feel that their ideas and stories matter.  We help children become better communicators and to be more motivated and ready to write and learn at school.  **(CHANGE)**

We want MoS to be a **laboratory** of innovation for writing by children, pioneering the most creative and fun ways for them to write; a **benchmark** of quality for the creative teaching of writing by children through the rigorous evaluation of its impact, and a national **advocate** for the wider benefits and value of children writing. **(OUTCOMES)**

Our long-term goal is that children across the UK are more confident, creative and skilled writers.  **(GOAL)**