

MINISTRY  OF STORIES

WE MAKE
WRITING
EXCITING!

WORKSHOP BROCHURE

For schools based in the City of London, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets



EVERY YEAR WE WORK WITH

1,000+ CHILDREN

40 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

20 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

WHY ATTEND A WORKSHOP AT THE MINISTRY OF STORIES?

We know that students can sometimes find writing in school difficult, but we can help.

We offer the space, support and inspiration to bring the excitement back to writing.

Our workshops deliver a unique, real world experience for children that translates to positive results back in the classroom.

We offer workshops that:

- Support every student, with a high adult to child ratio
- Excite them about writing, and powerfully motivate disengaged students
- Provide every child with a bespoke, professional-quality publication, giving them pride in their work and a true sense of achievement
- Complement teachers' work in their delivery of the statutory requirements (English framework; May 2015)

'Absolutely amazing – I loved every second! Really inspired and engaged children, fantastic resources and volunteers (really child-friendly!). Hopefully it will inspire further story writing and a love for English.'

Eleanor Seed, Year 6 teacher, Year 6 teacher and Assistant Head, St John the Baptist Primary School, Hackney

'The Ministry helps people with their imaginations. I think I'm more imaginative now I've come to the workshops.'

Berkay, aged 11



MENTORING

Every workshop we provide is staffed by volunteer writing mentors. Our mentors are thoroughly trained in order to provide the best possible support and encouragement for young writers.

Each student will have the attention of a writing mentor who can help them get motivated, be a sounding board for ideas or offer some gentle encouragement.

This high level of support allows each student to get the most out of our sessions.

'The complete engagement of the adults to bring the pupils on a writing journey, completely different to the classroom environment.'

Martin Shuttleworth, Year 6 teacher,
Tufnell Park Primary School, Islington

'The message given to the children was that writing is very cool.'

Michael Kelly, John Scurr Primary School, Tower Hamlets



MOTIVATION

We get children excited about every kind of storytelling.

Children are genuinely motivated to write by being treated as professionals and having the freedom to create and tell stories.

We can also work with hard-to-reach groups of students who are disengaged from writing, and inspire them to put pen to paper.

'A reluctant boy writer was incredibly inspired and wrote almost twice as much as usual. The session was particularly engaging for the boys, and in conjunction with other initiatives at school, has been a good experience to show that writing really can be fun!'

Class Teacher

'I think the session really helped those children who struggled with confidence when it came to writing. They were able to produce something really special that they were proud of and helped them to realise they are all good writers.'

Class Teacher



MAGIC

In need of creative inspiration or new ideas to use in the classroom? Teachers leave our morning workshops as fired up as their students.

We also provide CPD (which can be delivered to departments or the whole school) on using creative writing to improve confidence, motivation and literacy.

'If you focus really hard and really work hard, you can do anything.'

Shola, Year 4 student

'They (the children) feel differently about writing, they're more engaged, have more ideas'

Deputy Head

'All the students have participated and want to contribute their ideas to the session. The ideas are really fun and creative and they're enjoying themselves!'

Jennifer Lindsey, Head of KS3 English, Bridge Academy, Hackney

TEACHERS GAVE
US »THESE»
RATINGS*

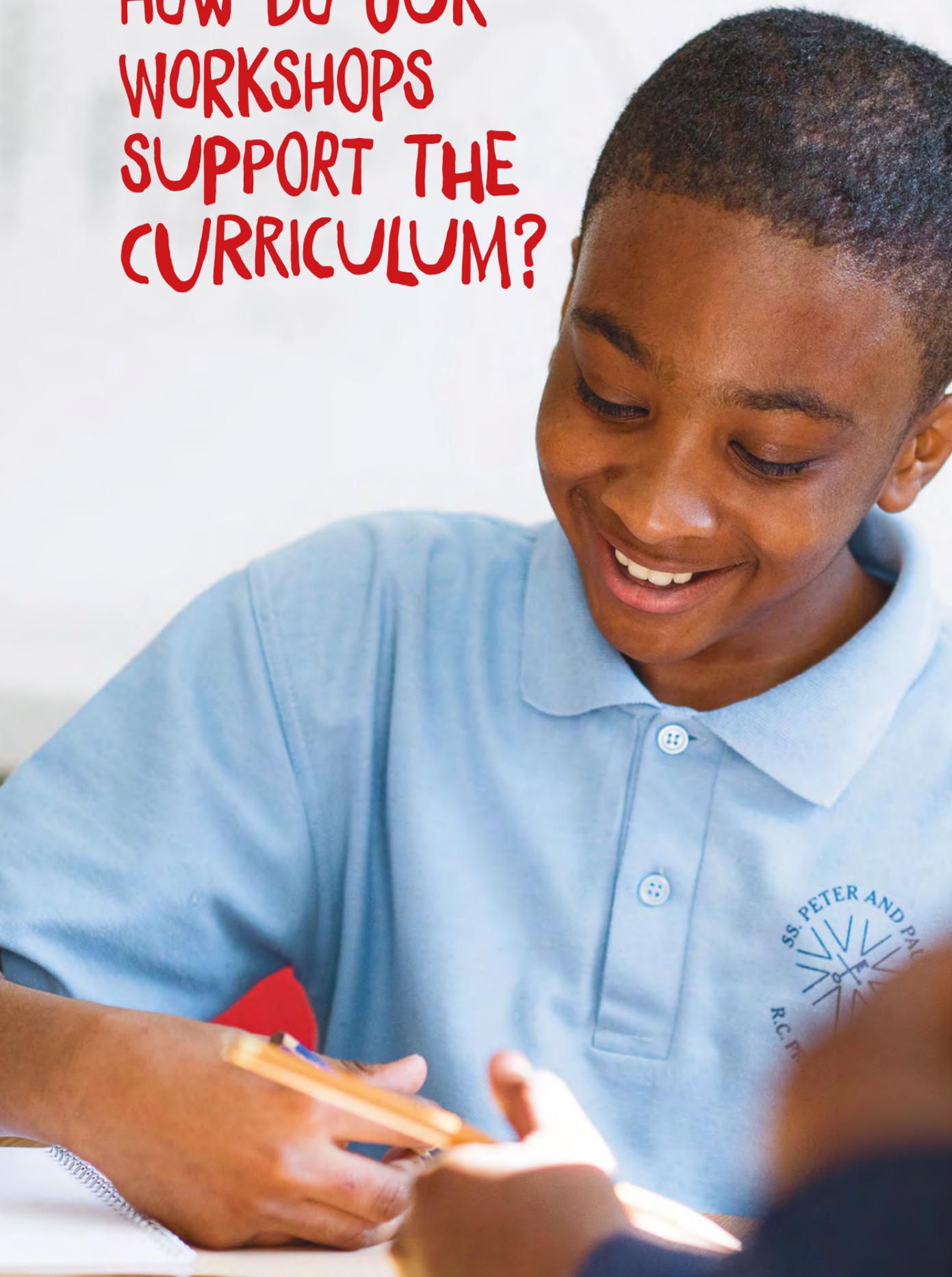
MY CLASS WERE ENGAGED
THROUGHOUT THE WORKSHOP
92% STRONGLY AGREE

THE WORKSHOPS
ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY
100% STRONGLY AGREE

THE WORKSHOP INCREASED
PUPIL CONFIDENCE
75% STRONGLY AGREE
25% AGREE

* From a survey of class teachers,
September - December 2015

HOW DO OUR WORKSHOPS SUPPORT THE CURRICULUM?



We motivate pupils to write, with a clear sense of what makes a good story and how narrative devices can be used to full effect. This supports the new English national curriculum in these key areas of writing:

Key stage 2:

Years 3 & 4

- Draft and write, creating characters, setting and plot
- Evaluate and edit, assessing the effectiveness of writing
- Read aloud their own writing

Years 5 & 6

- Draft and write, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action
- Evaluate and edit, assessing the effectiveness of writing

Key stage 3:

- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information, through stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing
- Plan, draft, edit and proof-read

At the end of our workshops, each student leaves as a published author with a sense of pride, achievement and joy.

‘The children were very proud to return to school with beautifully presented and bound stories.’

Michael Kelly, John Scurr Primary School, Tower Hamlets



Workshop One

STORYMAKING

For: Key Stage 2

Entering the secret door at the back of Hoxton Street Monster Supplies, children are introduced to a space where imagination, fun and playfulness are key.

Once inside, students meet the character of the Chief, who is fed up with bad stories and very sceptical about children's ability to write any good ones.

There begins our jam-packed two-hour workshop, where children start building a story collaboratively and then, with the help of the mentors, finish it on their own.

Every student leaves as a published author with their own storybook. This workshop is a proven hit with all primary year groups and their teachers.

Outcomes

Increased confidence, individual motivation to write, understanding of narrative devices such as character, conflict and climax, collaborative work, imaginative writing.

Cost: £220



Workshop Two

COMIC BOOKS!

For: Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

Designed for older students, this workshop, co-developed with our friends at NoBrow Comics, aims to introduce students to the art of visual storytelling. This workshop will build children's confidence in sketching, help them unlock their imaginations in creating characters, and guide them through the process of creating narratives, told in words and pictures. A great workshop for keen manga and comics fans, as well as those less engaged / confident with writing.

Outcomes

Visual literacy, increased confidence, understanding of narrative devices such as character, conflict and climax, use of dialogue to create character and advance the action, writing effectively for an audience.

'Well done, my class were a bit loud, but they were really engaged and I gave them some free time when we got back to school and they all elected to finish up their comics instead of playing games. Thank you very much for having us!'

Catherine, Year 5 teacher

Gainsborough Primary School

Cost: £220

HOW TO BOOK



Visit our [website](#) to complete a provisional booking form. We will then get in touch to discuss the best time for you to visit.

Any questions? Please call us on 020 7729 4159.

‘Before, I wasn’t really bothered to write stories and stuff but now I’ve bought a book and I write stories in it at home. Funny stories, some boring stories and some exciting adventure stories. I keep them secret but when I have a lot of them, I’m going to put them all together in a book and people can read them.’

Year 4 student

FAQS



Is my school/class eligible?

We currently prioritise visits from primary and secondary schools based in the boroughs of the City of London, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets. If your school is based outside these boroughs, please get in contact to discuss availability.

How many children can I book onto a workshop?

We usually take one class for a workshop, or a group of up to 30 children.

Can you match your workshop to what we're studying?

If you would like us to tailor the workshop, please email us on writing@ministryofstories.org and we can see if it's possible to match your workshop to the study subject.

Can the workshop be adjusted for students with SEN?

Yes, we are happy to adjust workshops for children with special educational needs. Please email us on writing@ministryofstories.org with your requirements and we will get in touch.

What days and times do you run? Can these be altered?

We run school workshops on Wednesdays and Thursdays during term time. To find a date that suits you, please get in touch.

Any other questions, please get in touch on:
writing@ministryofstories.org



RESOURCES

Not able to book a workshop right now?

Have a look at our teaching resources and bring a little bit of Ministry magic into your classroom.

The resources are FREE to use in the classroom. To download lesson plans, writing exercises and more, visit our [teachers' resources page](#).

Young writers can also visit our [Get Writing](#) page, for fun writing activities.

Resources include support on:

- Product design and copywriting
- How to write great speeches
- Investigating mysterious props to create short fiction
- Designing a museum of curated childhood objects
- Writing letters to the great and powerful

**‘THE MINISTRY OF STORIES
TAKES THE WORK OUT
OF WRITING AND MAKES
IT FUN.’**
YEAR 5 STUDENT



MINISTRY OF STORIES

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