



London Voice

FIRST STORY

YOUNG WRITERS
PROGRAMME

2024/25

Develop your students' oracy and writing

London Voice is an exciting new oracy pilot project, bringing together creative writing and talk to help young people develop as writers who have a voice.

Building on the success of our [Young Writers Programme](#), London Voice provides intensive extracurricular creative writing and performance activities, empowering young people to increase confidence, creativity, literacy and oracy skills.

This opportunity is open to six schools in Greater London. As a London Voice school, you'll become part of a supportive network of teachers passionate about developing students' social and emotional skills through oracy. With tailored support and CPD access, you'll benefit from shared evaluation and learning, and play an integral part in the shaping of this exciting new project alongside guidance from The Open University.

➔ **Writing Workshops** ➔ **Events** ➔ **Competitions** ➔ **Teacher Training and Support**
➔ **Exceptional progression routes for participants**



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Core Student Cohort

- ✓ 16 x creative writing workshops with an inspiring [Writer-in-Residence](#)
- ✓ A professionally printed anthology
- ✓ 1 x oracy skills workshop with a specialist performance coach
- ✓ Performance for broadcast and opportunity to learn new technical and presentation skills
- ✓ Performance focused [Connect](#) event bringing together all six schools at a cultural or HE institution in London
- ✓ Opportunity to apply for prestigious progression opportunities, including a fully-funded [Summer Residential](#) place and [Folio Academy Mentorship](#)

Whole School Engagement

- ✓ Professional [Writer-in-Residence](#) at your school as inspiring role model
- ✓ Three national competitions
- ✓ Invitation to attend First Story's national [Young Writers Festival](#) at Cambridge University
- ✓ Support to hold a celebratory anthology launch event

Teaching Staff

- ✓ Access to the online Schools Hub, plus tailored support from our London Programme and Partnerships team
- ✓ CPD access, including best practice in teaching oracy workshop (with teacher release voucher)
- ✓ A peer network of 6 schools, with shared learning and support
- ✓ Key contribution to evaluation and development of this new pilot programme supported by The Open University and Oracy Cambridge



WHY TAKE PART?

Supported by an inspiring professional author, weekly group workshops will provide a trusted space in which your students can build speaking and listening skills and increase confidence in writing.

Workshops will facilitate students' social and emotional learning, building confidence and self-belief. Through access to a performance coach and opportunities to perform for broadcast and at First Story events, students will increase their understanding of oracy and their confidence in speaking in front of an audience. Throughout the project, they will develop the knowledge, skills and cultural capital that lead to improved attitudes to learning.

Teachers participating in the London Voice programme will gain valuable skills and techniques in teaching creative writing and oracy, working alongside creative professionals and participating in CPD with other practitioners involved in the project. Towards the end of the year, teachers from across the six schools will come together for a day of shared learning and evaluation, forming a focus group of likeminded educators as part of the London Voice peer network. To facilitate this, each school will receive a grant for supply cover.

“ I can give my opinions with confidence and I think I have a better, more creative mind set which helps in lessons like English.

FIRST STORY PARTICIPANT 2022/23

About First Story

We are England's leading creative writing charity for young people.

Since 2008, we have supported thousands of young people to develop their creativity, confidence and writing ability.

Our mission is to enable young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access and participate in high quality creative learning and enrichment beyond the classroom.

Eligibility Criteria

We partner with non-selective secondary schools that have higher than average FSM.

At least 70% of participants should be eligible for Pupil Premium. Participants may be low prior attainers, EAL speakers, or face additional barriers to learning.

Funding Model

First Story is a registered charity, funded primarily by voluntary donations.

Our model helps keep the contribution paid by each participating school affordable.



Become a London Voice School



To find out more about becoming a London Voice school and to register your interest in the project, please email:

alice.frecknall@firststory.org.uk

We are a charity with a founding mission to support young people experiencing disadvantage and to tackle inequality of access and opportunity. To ensure we reach those who stand to benefit most from our provision, we work exclusively in non-selective secondary schools with a percentage of pupils higher than the national average eligible for free school meals.



“Facilitating First Story workshops has been one of the highlights of my career as a teacher. Witnessing students' true and substantial transformations of confidence and craft through the power of creative writing has been incredibly rewarding.

JENNIFER HORSFALL
TEACHER OF ENGLISH & KS4 CO-CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR
ST PAUL'S WAY, TOWER HAMLETS



London Voice is generously funded by the St Paul's Schools Foundation and supported by The Mercers' Company. This helps keep affordable the contribution fee paid by each participating school. London Voice is being developed in conversation with the Open University and evaluated in consultation with Oracy Cambridge.

Find out more

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firststory.org.uk

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