

Year 5 Cluster Meeting – Cross Curricular Writing

Attendees

Fiona Anderson – SWJS

Philippa McIntyre – SWJS

Chris Woodburn – Cambridge St School

Opened the meeting by asking how schools incorporated writing in other subjects other than English. Discussed how it depends on whether the school has a skills based or topic based approach to Foundation subjects as to how much writing is done. SWJS have a skills based approach whereas Cambridge St are currently topic based but are in the process of switching to skills based.

Discussed how, due to the increased use of technology and more focus on skills, pieces of writing in Foundation subjects and Science tend to be quite short. Longer pieces are done in English books. Also discussed how some subjects, such as History and Geography, lend themselves to include writing as part of the assessment process whereas for others, such as Science, DT and Art, the focus should be on practical skills.

Discussed a move to 'quality' over 'quantity' of writing within all subjects including English. Cambridge St. currently try to link work in English to their topics but this may change. Neither school has a specific timeframe for longer pieces of writing although produce approximately 5-6 pieces a term.

Examples of writing for History and Geography were shared. The linking of spelling to Foundation subjects and Science and the importance of subject specific vocabulary was also discussed.

Due to the lack of attendees it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to set a focus for the next cluster meeting or agree a school to host.