



Everyday Magic Workshops at St Mary's, Kensington

Since 2009, TSF has been helping to fund storytelling workshops at St Mary's School in Kensington. The sessions are part of the Everyday Magic scheme run by The Company of Players, who specialise in interactive and creative storytelling. Over the past two years, around 120 children have benefited, aged from Nursery up to Year 2.

Sessions are linked to core curriculum topics, and the aim is to improve literacy levels by engaging children in exciting and creative uses of language. Subjects have included Seaside and Under the Sea, Animals and Journeys, Healthy Living, The Victorians and Ancient Greece.

Teachers say this has been a really effective way to get all the children to participate and express themselves – including those with special needs, and the 42% who speak English as a second language. The school has noticed marked improvements in reading, writing and spelling levels among the children who have benefited from the scheme. Staff also say the courses are a source of 'professional development', providing inspiration and ideas to incorporate in their own teaching.

“The children love the storytelling session – it is truly magical,” says one teacher. *“Their faces are a picture of absorption every week and their enthusiasm and excitement whenever the storytellers arrive show how much they've enjoyed the project.”*