

Author Artistic Brief

Pop Up's Vision and Mission

Our **VISION** is of a more literate society where it is the universal right of every child and young person to access and enjoy literature.

Our **MISSION** is to transform lives through literature, especially through working with people in deprived places and challenging circumstances.

We achieve our mission through three strands of work:

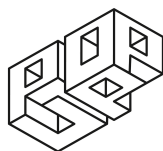
- Educational programmes in schools, facilitating rich learning opportunities through quality contemporary literature, interactions with diverse authors, and training for educators
- Talent development, investing in and advocating for aspiring, emerging and established writers and illustrators, especially from backgrounds which are under-represented in children's publishing
- Community projects, providing participatory literary opportunities for and with children and young people, especially those experiencing marginalisation, isolation or who are at risk

Pop Up Festival

Pop Up Festival is our flagship Education programme, which is available year-round and brings children's literature to life in primary, secondary and special schools, and PRUs across the UK. It stimulates reading enjoyment and builds confidence and literacy skills, by placing quality contemporary literature and author-led workshops at the heart of learning.

We create an inclusive, immersive literature programme around contemporary picture books, novels, poetry and graphic novels, drawing on hundreds of diverse children's authors. Teachers select content that meets the needs of their pupils and their school's curriculum. We provide class sets of the chosen books, high-quality teaching resources and support from our education team.

Pop Up Festival culminates in a series of inspiring workshops with the authors of these books. Classes can also meet their authors in local libraries, museums, galleries, heritage and outdoor spaces, connecting books and stories to local history and culture. This celebration of reading, creative writing and visual storytelling creates a school-wide buzz which energises cross-curricular teaching and learning.



Your Workshop

Pop Up is commissioning you to deliver an event or workshop that deepens pupil engagement with the book they are reading. Every class you work with will have immersed themselves in one of your books. Your workshop is not a stand-alone event: it is part of something bigger involving pre- and often also post-visit classroom activity over several weeks.

Expectations

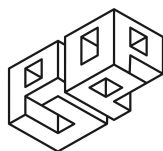
Your workshop should include two distinct focuses:

1. Introducing yourself, sharing a little of your story and the books you've created, leaving time for children to ask questions and share the creative work they have done inspired by your book
2. Imaginative activities such as creative writing, illustration, sensory activities, drama improvisation or making things - anything that involves you modelling or collaborating with them to produce creative outcomes. You don't have to finish the exercise in class - it might be something you kick-start and the teacher continues when you've gone.

Tips and Suggestions

Here are some tips and suggestions from observing successful author events as well as feedback from teachers:

- ★ Keep your talks short and lively. You don't need to be a performer - it's important that children meet authors who are quiet as well as entertaining - but be aware of how long you are speaking and leave time for pupil interaction.
- ★ Use visual stimuli to accompany talking where possible - however, we do recommend not relying too heavily on slides - your workshop should feel different to pupils' everyday lessons.
- ★ Model creative writing or illustration (or both) in front of the class - we have also found that teachers learn invaluable techniques from seeing authors do this.
- ★ Collaborate with the class to produce something, or supervise activities where the children produce something individually or in groups - the children will remember that activity for years to come.
- ★ Share insights into your creative processes regarding the book - where the inspiration came from, how ideas formed, how long it took, how challenging or exciting it was, and any special tricks or techniques the children might use when writing or drawing stories.



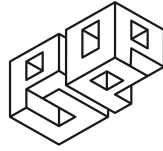
- ★ Limit the amount of questions children ask - in many classes every child will have a question prepared, and some will ask the same question! It can be helpful to involve the teacher in this, asking them to select pupils to ask questions.
- ★ Contact the school ahead of the events, and discuss with teachers how they have been using your book in class, how much of the book the pupils have read, and what they would like to see as part of your visit. Contact details for your schools are included in the author information pack.

Expectations of Teachers

Visiting authors should expect certain things from teachers to support your visit. We try to ensure teachers are aware of these expectations. These include:

- ★ Introducing you to the classroom when you arrive and before your session starts.
- ★ Being on hand at all times to support your activities - and not using the time to do other work.
- ★ Never leaving you unattended in the classroom - i.e. without an adult member of staff in the room. This is an important safeguarding requirement.
- ★ Managing behaviour and ensuring children aren't noisy or disruptive when you are working with them - this should not be part of your job.
- ★ Thanking you at the end of the session.

If you feel a teacher in any of the classrooms you visit does not adequately honour these expectations, please do let a member of Pop Up's education team know, so that we can address this directly with the school.



Pop Up Hub

Your book - and information about you - will be featured on **Pop Up Hub**. You can find your book and author page in **Explore Books**. We are able to provide all authors with a Hub account so you can have editorial control of your author profile page, let us know if you don't have an account yet.



We would like all book pages on the Hub to feature some extra material - a book taster, images, or a first chapter. If your book pages currently only feature a cover, and you are able to provide us with extra materials, please let us know - we'd love to feature them!

We would like all authors to provide us with a child-friendly resource for the **Teacher Centre** section. This could be a printable activity worksheet, an introductory video or short interview, a guide to making or drawing something, or a prompt to inspire creative writing or visual storytelling. Have a look at some of the resources already uploaded for ideas, and let us know if you have anything we can feature, or would like to create something new. If you have an idea, but don't know how to make it digitally, please get in touch and we can support you.

Also have a look at the **Showroom**, where teachers will be uploading children's writing and artwork created in response to your book - the latest work will also feature on your book page.

Safeguarding Children

We have provided a copy of Pop Up's *Code of Conduct for Working with Children and Young People*. It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with this and clarify any aspects that you are unsure of before your workshop. We do not - and our schools do not - expect you to be DBS checked; if a school asks for this, please let our education team know immediately and we will contact them.

Contact Details

Email: education@pop-up.org.uk

Phone: 07415 721 551

Please refer to your author information pack for contact details for the schools you will be visiting.

We are very much looking forward to your events with us as part of Pop Up Festival!