

## Our Story

Our work as Storytelling Schools began with a series of action research programs conducted between 2005 and 2008 in Oxford City and Oxfordshire villages. We worked with the inspirational Pie Corbett in around 20 schools mostly in areas of social deprivation. We explored what systematic use of storytelling, as a springboard for learning would look like, where children learned to tell stories as a way of mastering both language and subject content.

The result was the storytelling schools methodology, published in **The Storytelling Schools Teachers Handbook**.

Subsequently, a three-year pilot research project was undertaken with Poplar Partnership schools in Tower Hamlets from 2011 to 2014. The project evaluation validated the effectiveness of the approach. All schools in the pilots have continued to use the Storytelling approach.

Teachers reported growing confidence and enthusiasm for teaching and great pleasure in the rising standards and engagement of their students.

Following this success, we decided to set up Storytelling Schools Ltd, with the aim of promoting the Storytelling Schools method in the UK and beyond. We realised that high quality training was needed for schools to adopt the approach and wanted to create a sustainable organisation to provide this.

Since its beginnings, Storytelling Schools has worked with over 240 schools nationwide, many in areas of socio-economic deprivation. So far, our method has impacted approximately 2000 teachers and 60,000 pupils in England. In 2017, a branch opened in New Zealand.