



Press release – 06.08.2012

PENS OUTLAWED FOR DAY ON OCTOBER 10TH 2012 FOR PUPILS AND TEACHERS

No Pens Day Wednesday back by popular demand with 250 schools already registered for free speaking and listening activities and lesson plans

The Communication Trust, a coalition of nearly 50 voluntary organisations with expertise in supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication, is calling on primary and secondary schools across the UK to put down their pens and pick up language on October 10th 2012.

The Trust will be providing a portfolio of free materials including an activity pack, assembly plans and lesson plans for primary and secondary that reflect the increased focus on embedding speech, language and communication into all subjects.

Schools will be encouraged to run *No Pens Day Wednesday* activities including podcasting, interactive story-telling, maths games, debating, vocabulary games and talk homework that will highlight the importance of language for learning for pupils and provide a day of 'no marking' for school staff.

Anne Fox, Director of The Communication Trust, said: "*No Pens Day Wednesday* is a fantastic initiative that highlights the importance of speaking and listening approaches in the classroom. Ofsted has emphasised that pupils need more opportunities to become articulate and research has shown that too often our classrooms are dominated by teacher talk.

"We are calling on schools to run their *No Pens Day* on October 10th or at another time that suits them. Feedback from schools last year was overwhelmingly positive. *No Pens Day Wednesday* increased pupils engagement in activities, improved confidence and respect between pupils and helped those who struggle with the written word. Teachers reported back the benefits of lots of talk in the classroom, particularly on pupils vocabulary."

No Pens Day Wednesday was originally run as a flagship event of the *Hello* campaign (national year of communication) last year. The unique event proved popular with 800 schools taking part and leading academics including Professor Andrew Pollard and Jean Gross, formerly Communication Champion, backed the whole-day focus on speaking and listening.

Schools and other interested professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists or Local Authority Leads, can register to receive the *No Pens Day Wednesday* materials here <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/schools/no-pens-day-wednesday.aspx>

For more information contact Press and PR Officer Lynne Milford on 0207 843 2564 or email lmilford@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

Notes to editors

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector and community-based organisations. It raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory and partner network that includes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Achievement for All, Council for Disabled Children, Early Support Programme and specialists across early years, schools and youth justice.
- Recently, the Trust ran the *Hello* campaign (national year of communication) in partnership with Jean Gross in her role as the Government's Communication Champion for children.
- For more information, visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk