

Speaking to Writing

Event 3 – Planning Lab

On 16 and 18 March 2026, the Speaking to Writing (S2W) Learning Hub held two Planning Lab sessions to strengthen the programme's community of practice. The sessions offered a focused refresher on the S2W planning process, structured peer networking, and dedicated time for teachers to start, develop, or finalise units tailored to their own school contexts.



Practical Input from Advisory Teachers

Each session was built around two blocks of professional input from the Advisory Teachers (ATs). The first walked through the architecture of an 8-lesson unit in detail, grounded in concrete examples: complete unit plans and video footage of the methodology being used in live primary classrooms. The second focused on the mechanics of launching a unit, covering how to unpack and adapt a model text and how to select the specific language and structural features that populate a student "writer's toolkit."

Collaboration and Resource Sharing

At the centre of both labs was hands-on planning time. Teachers browsed a curated bank of resources and materials contributed by established S2W schools, which prompted natural conversation across school teams. Teachers paired up to discuss implementation and the day-to-day realities of using the approach, with ATs circulating to offer suggestions on draft units as they took shape.



Teacher Feedback and Classroom Visits

Participants responded strongly to the practical focus. The elements teachers valued most were the direct conversations with colleagues, access to materials from other schools, and dedicated planning time with AT support close at hand. To carry that momentum forward, a follow-up open lesson was arranged. A group of teachers visited a partner school with several years of S2W experience to observe a lesson in action. Seeing the strategies working in a real classroom gave teachers a grounded sense of what implementation actually looks like, and a clear point of reference as they move into their own planning phases.

