

YOUR SCHOOL'S SINGING STRATEGY



JUNE 2017

WHAT IS A SINGING STRATEGY?

A singing strategy is a plan for how you want to embed singing into the life of your school. It should be a working document that sets out the key beliefs and aims of your intentions around singing but is also reflected upon and updated on a regular basis to reflect your progress and ambitions.

WHAT WOULD I WRITE IN MY SCHOOL'S SINGING STRATEGY?

Try starting with some of the following headings and suggestions from the following fictional school scenario to help you build your initial document.

Ethos and beliefs

At Highfield Primary School we believe that ALL children should have access to good quality singing opportunities every week. We believe that singing is a truly inclusive musical activity that transcends all economical and academic boundaries and that it has a huge benefit on the wellbeing of our children.

Aims

Our aims include:

- We will sing in assembly every day so that all children get to sing regularly in a whole school / key stage community setting
- All staff will join in the singing in assemblies
- There will be a singing element included in all NC music lessons
- Singing shall be encouraged to help explore subject content in all areas of the curriculum
- We will aim to ensure there is at least one singing session per week where teachers help focus the children on high quality singing with references being made to breathing/phrasing, articulation, projection, tone/dynamics etc.
- KS2 students will be encouraged to sing in harmony at least once a week to build in an element of challenge and enhanced enjoyment and musical appreciation of singing in an ensemble (this could be for a dedicated singing group if not for everyone).
- All pupils should be given the opportunity to sing songs in a variety of genres: hymns, musicals, popular, jazz etc. and in a variety of styles: upbeat, slow, lyrical, powerful etc.
- All staff will plan to include singing in their lessons at least once a week
- Singing strategies will be shared regularly by staff during meetings
- There will be a designated singing club during the lunchtime every week for pupils to join should they wish to engage further in singing
- The school will aim to showcase their singing through participating in...school concerts, Music for Youth, Young Voices, cluster singing event with local primary schools etc.

Resources

- Whole school membership to Sing Up
- Out of the Ark –
 - Songs for Every Series – for use in assemblies – with 'Words on Screen'
 - Song books to support literacy and numeracy

Extra curricular groups

- Tuesday Lunchtimes – Mrs Jones – KS2 Choir
- Thursday Lunchtimes – Mr Smith – KS1 Choir
- Friday Lunchtimes – Miss Ford – Boys Singing Club

Events

- January – Young Voices (Birmingham)
- February – CPD inset for whole staff on singing strategies (Make Music Gloucestershire)
- March – Music For Youth – Cheltenham Town Hall
- June – Cluster Concert with 3 other primaries – hosted at our school
- December – Christmas Concert

Acknowledge Challenges and Plans for Development

- Are you engaging all pupils with the materials you are using?
- Are your staff confident enough in delivering singing?
- Are both boys and girls engaging equally in singing / participating in extra-curricular singing?
- Are all your staff clear about what 'high quality singing' means?

Academic research consistently reports increased confidence and improved learning outcomes as a direct result of singing regularly.

WHY IS SINGING IMPORTANT TO EVERY LEARNER?

Singing improves learning outcomes

Singing and music help pupils to become **confident learners**, able to **apply critical thinking**. Musicians make great problem-solvers with creative minds. Academic research consistently reports increased confidence and improved learning outcomes as a direct result of singing regularly. Other benefits include **improved self-esteem**, increased enjoyment in school life, **deeper engagement** in class and **enhanced social skills**.

Singing is really good for you

Singing works the respiratory system, so is good for the heart and lungs. It **triggers feel-good chemicals in the brain**, lifting our spirits. As well as this, some research has shown it can boost the immune system. What's more, something special happens when we sing in a group. Singing together regulates breathing and causes your heart rate to synchronise with everyone else in the choir.

Singing creates strong communities

Successful schools have a strong, cohesive culture with enthusiasm for learning. Singing well together has a deep impact on the school community, helping to strengthen the identity of the school and makes pupils **feel proud to be part of it**. Pupils, teachers, governors and parents alike enjoy the sense of community that singing brings to school life. **Quality songs and resources** help schools reach their goals.

Sing Up Website

POWER OF SINGING

Want to read more about the effects of singing then visit the following websites:

10 reasons why singing should be in the classroom

<https://www.musicalfutures.org/musical-futures-blog/10-reasons-why-singing-should-be-in-the-classroom>

Facts and figures from Sing Up's research

<https://www.singup.org/news-local-events/news-article/view/888-we-love-a-little-research-dont-you/>

WHO TO CONTACT FOR SUPPORT:

You can request a free consultation with Lisa Mayo (Singing Champion for MMG) – she can help to talk you through your own singing strategy or help put you in touch with other colleagues if you are interested in cluster work. Lisa can also give