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ARE YOU A SINGING SCHOOL? - CHECKLIST

Do you class yourself as a singing school?

- Do you often find yourself saying to parents, governors etc that you do lots of singing and that you are a strong school in this area?
- Do you know how your school compares to others in terms of your commitment to singing?

Maybe this following checklist will help you give a benchmark baseline with which to start from...

Definition of a basic 'singing school' as agreed by Sing Up/DfE (nee DCMF) 2007

A 'singing school' is one in which: -

- All pupils sing for at least 5 minutes every day.
- The whole school sings together at least once a week.
- Singing regularly takes place in and outside the classroom.
- At least 2 people in every primary school are confident to lead singing throughout the school.
- Pupils sing in performances periodically (internal or external audiences and recordings), and at least once a year.
- The school recognises the value of singing across the curriculum.
- The headteacher, governors and staff are supportive of singing.

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How might I improve what's on offer to our pupils at my school?

Below is a list of singing activities that apply well to the following age groups and could take you beyond being a basic singing school to one that really puts singing at the heart of your school community.

Early Years setting

Universal access:

- Playground singing
- Whole-school/assembly singing
- Classroom/curriculum singing

Focussed singing activity:

- Breakfast clubs
- Class-led assemblies
- Festivals etc.

Primary School

Universal access:

- Playground singing
- Whole-school/assembly singing
- Classroom/curriculum singing

Focussed singing activity:

- Breakfast clubs
- Class-led assemblies
- Choirs
- Festivals, events etc
- Music theatre

Progression:

- Curriculum music (KS1&2)
- Awards/qualifications
- Individual / small group tuition
- Area choirs / vocal groups

Secondary School

Universal access:

- Assemblies?
- Curriculum (KS3)

Focussed singing activity:

- Choirs
- Vocal groups
- Big Sings
- Festivals, events etc
- Workshops
- Musical theatre/shows
- Attending vocal/choral concerts

Progression:

- Curriculum music (KS4)
- Awards/qualifications
- Individual / small group tuition
- Area choirs / vocal groups
- Regional choirs/vocal groups
- National choirs/vocal groups
- Young singing leaders

Sixth Form settings

Focussed singing activity:

- Choirs
- Vocal groups
- Big Sings
- Festivals, events etc
- Musical theatre/shows
- Attending vocal/choral concerts

Progression:

- Curriculum musi
- Awards/qualifications
- Individual / small group tuition
- Area choirs / vocal groups
- Regional choirs/vocal groups
- National choirs/vocal groups
- Young singing leaders
- Choral/vocal group leadership
- Adult choir