ST GILES C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

'You must love one another as I have loved you.' John 13 v 34.

Working together with love we will provide a happy and nurturing environment where all will, ***'learn to love and love to learn'***, making outstanding progress through an enriched and creative curriculum. Through our strong Christian ethos we will celebrate and embrace the richness of our community.

Learn to Love - Love to Learn
'You must love one another as I have loved you.' John 13 v 34

Singing Strategy

Introduction

In the National Plan for Music Education the Government has set core roles[1] for schools (supported by the local Music Hubs) to ensure national consistency and equality of opportunity in music including singing. **St Giles'** wishes singing to be an important part of our music curriculum and it will have a high profile in our development plans. We shall aim to give quality access to singing to all pupils and to offer/signpost clear pathways for progression. We will work closely with the local Music Hub, MusE, the local community and a range of other providers to achieve our aims.

Background

Developing a confident and skilled workforce is key to achieving the successful implementation of **St Giles'** singing strategy. We are already connected through Walsall's MusE[2] network, which helps support our teachers and our singing curriculum. We follow the Charanga Scheme which includes singing in every lesson. In Key stage 2 we join weekly for singing practice and also offer choir practice to eager and enthusiastic children. The Sing-Up strategy is to be included into KS2 singing practice and also offered to teachers to include as a cross-curricular activity.

Our Governors, Senior Leadership and classroom teachers recognise the value of singing and provide active support for its place in the broad curriculum. The school is aware, however, that more strategic work will be needed to further support the implementation of our Singing Strategy. For singing to thrive we aim to have singing happening in individual

[1] *The core roles of the National Plan for Music are presented in Appendix A*
[2] MusE is facilitated by the Music Hub and is the local network and forum of music teachers in Walsall

classrooms, in year group, in key stage, in assemblies and, where possible, throughout the whole school delivered by our music specialists and the Forest Arts team.

- St Giles' will enquire further into performance opportunities (both within school and possibly within flagship projects e.g. *Big Sing Primary*, the *Annual Walsall Celebration of Singing* and the *Rock Choir Juniors* event (L Morrison to develop further)

We will:

- Establish a web-based resource platform of singing material for our teachers to use (Charanga).
- Instigate a tailored programme of support for our teachers (Charanga).
- Ensure that our Singing Strategy works to highlight the importance of singing in supporting mental awareness, concentration, listening and memory development[3] for all, and especially for engaging boys, SEND and those with little access to other forms of music making.

The Aims of Our Singing Strategy:

- To provide a coordinated, sustainable and cost effective approach to developing singing and supporting vocal opportunities for children, teachers and the wider community

- To develop models of working with teachers, teaching assistants and others which embeds singing in the cultural life of our school

- To signpost children to singing initiatives and opportunities which are provided at a borough-wide, regional and national level.

- To provide information so that children, their parents and classroom teachers can know about and can access the most appropriate offer at local, regional and national level

- To develop and maintain links with the wider vocal community locally, regionally and nationally

- To regularly review, refine and develop this strategy's model for embedding singing in the cultural life of our school through taking into account the views of stakeholders, e.g.

    - Headteachers
    - Parents
    - Class teachers and teaching assistants
    - Partner organisations

3 See Appendix A "10 Reasons Why Everyone Should Sing!"

- To support (and use) networks of local primary teacher to act as local “champions”

To Realise the Above Aims the School Will:

- Develop, in collaboration with the local Music Hub and MusE, protocols & documentation for embedding singing within our school e.g.
    - Model delivery plan for the delivery of the Singing Strategy
    - Accessing awards and accreditation for schools’ vocal commitment and expertise

- Develop, in collaboration with the local Music Hub and MusE, resource access for teachers e.g.
    - Sing Up access facilitated through the Music Hub
    - On-line access to strategic documentation
    - Resource packages to support large-scale “themed” events (e.g. *Big Sing, Annual Vocal Festival, Rock Choir Junior, Christmas Stars* etc.)

To Support the Delivery of High Quality Singing the School Will:

Provide:

- Regular participatory events, where children and young people can come together and sing on a larger scale, and where they can interact with other schools, artists and art forms

- The opportunity for collaborative performance opportunities with school “cluster” and other “communities of interest” to include community performances

- Large-scale opportunities to sing as a whole school (e.g. Carol Service at Christmas, Last Night of the Proms, Live Aid Revisited Concert etc.

- Resource access and support for singing (e.g. subscribe to the Sing Up resource base)

- Access to and support for the Charanga resource base

(Appendix A)

From the National Plan for Music Education

The Government core roles for schools and Music Hubs

These core roles are to:

- Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument
- Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from key stage 2
- Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- Develop a singing strategy (Sing Up) to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

(Appendix B)

From Sing Up Organisation

10 REASONS WHY EVERYONE SHOULD SING!

1. It's good for your heart; Singing is an aerobic activity so beneficial for your heart and lungs.
You'll probably live longer**,** in general. A 2008 joint study by Harvard and Yale stated that choral singing in a Connecticut town had increased residents' life expectancy.

2. It's really good for your brain and will enhance your mental awareness, concentration, and memory; Reading sheet music in general improves your math skills, as well as other cognitive functions. When you sing your brain also releases "feel-good" chemicals including endorphins.
Consequently singing can be a brilliantly effective mood buster and there is an increasing body of research to show that it is a valuable tool in alleviating depression.

3. It's relaxing; Through singing we can learn to breathe more deeply and with more awareness. When stressed or anxious, exhaling for longer than inhaling helps to calm the nervous system. Singing encourages us to do this, using a shorter inhalation and a longer outward breath.

4. Express yourself; Singing is a natural and global form of human expression. You don't have to consider yourself good at singing for singing to be good for you. It is something that the vast majority of us can participate in and benefit from socially, physically or psychologically, and usually all three.

5. It builds confidence; Singing regularly can improve your ability to use your speaking voice with more clarity and confidence too.

6. It makes you part of something life-affirming; Joining a choir and singing with other people can be rewarding and fun. It can also enhance your sense of community, connection and creativity.

7. It's a natural beauty treatment; When you sing you exercise your facial muscles. (Not important for the kids, but great for the grown ups!)

8. It's eco-friendly; Your body already has all of the equipment you need and you don't require fossil fuels or expensive upgrades.

9. You reclaim your birthright; Children sing very easily, freely and without feeling self-conscious. Sometimes, as we grow up or experience judgement and criticism, the simple pleasure of singing can get lost. There are many accounts of people being told that they "can't sing."

We can all learn to sing with more confidence, freedom and control through guidance and practice. While our individual physicality undoubtedly shapes and defines our voice, we can learn to use more of our vocal potential and sing with a greater expressive range, no matter how old or young we are.

10. You'll become a better listener; By learning to sing, you develop your musical ear and start to listen to yourself and other singers with a greater level of appreciation and

understanding. You learn to hear more nuance and subtlety in vocal performances and in music itself as well as being able to listen with more concentration in general.

Article 28 (right to education)

Article 29 (goals of education)