



Sheepscombe School Singing Strategy 2022-2024



Why we sing

Research shows that singing makes us happy and enhances our cognitive ability – it energises us, gives us confidence, promotes mental wellbeing and helps us to develop our physical health¹. For all of these reasons singing is a central part of a pupil's life at Sheepscombe School. Our music curriculum is designed so that no child is left behind. We are clear about what we teach, when and for what purpose. Without Music we would not be the happy school we are.

When we sing

- Children are taught to sing every week during a dedicated weekly singing assembly
- Twice a year children take part in the song led Christmas Nativity Play and Summer Musical Production
- On Fridays our children sing to an audience of parents, staff and governors during our weekly Celebration Assembly
- Every two years KS2 children develop their singing and musical composition skills as part of a 10 week project taking part in Voice Collective workshops delivered by the Music Works (<https://www.themusicworks.org.uk/>)
- As part of the Voice Collectives project children spend a day in a recording studio recording the song they have written together
- Other performance and singing opportunities include during: our Apple day festival, the Stroud singing competition, at Ebworth during Forest School, at end of theme celebratory events, the year 6 leaver's service and more.

What we sing

- Songs are selected to support progress of singing skills
- Songs are chosen from a range of genres, styles, historical periods and countries
- The songs we sing are often linked to our thematic curriculum
- The songs we sing are regularly selected by children
- Alongside our discrete singing sessions, an appreciation of song is taught as part of our '2 minute music' sessions that are held in classes weekly



Who sings

- Everyone!

- Reception and KS1 children are also taught nursery rhymes to develop their ability to memorise harmonies, learn to sing in small groups and foster and awareness of rhythm, pitch and dynamics.
- As children progress through the school, they are given more opportunities to sing in smaller ensembles, trios, duets and solos
- A choir is run for children in Eagle Class to extend their vocal range and develop their singing skills
- We believe it is important that the children see adults sing and so staff perform during the Nativity and at other events such as during our Christmas party and all staff are encouraged to take an active part in singing assemblies and in play rehearsals
- CPD opportunities mean that all staff are able to support a child's vocal progression, while 2 members of staff hold responsibility for music within the school

How we sing

- Our first priority is that children come to enjoy singing
- Children are taught that their voices are a musical instrument that needs to be cared for, rehearsed and which will develop over time
- To this end, children are taught warm up routines
- They are taught songs which progress their ability to listen, sing as a large group, ensembles or small groups and which require greater vocal skill (for example, extending a child's vocal range, ability to sing in major and minor keys, sing songs with more complex rhythms and to hold parts and harmonies)
- Children are regularly and explicitly encouraged to reflect upon their singing in sessions; they understand that singing skills are refined over time
- Musical language is taught during singing sessions
- The children understand they carry with them a musical legacy, leaving with a repertoire of songs and upholding a musical tradition within the school



Assessment and evidence

- Children's singing is continually assessed during singing sessions with next steps provided by the teacher
- Progress is tracked on the school's tracking system Insight
- Evidence is captured in the form of recordings which are shared with children, staff and subject leaders, and parents whenever appropriate
- Sheepscombe School is delighted to hold the Music Mark for quality in Music Education

