

St Botolph's CE Primary School Singing Strategy

Through singing our children come together to enjoy communicating in varied and fun ways that build individual self-esteem, confidence, creativity and a sense of shared purpose. We see singing as important to our school community and essential to the growth, development and well-being of our children.

Singing in our School

We encourage teachers and children to sing as part of their daily routine and as a way of exploring other curriculum areas. As a school, we sing in assemblies and for special events such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in church, Class Assemblies, some Golden time activities and as part of extra-curricular activities (eg choir, Young Voices). Enjoyment of singing is modelled by the adults throughout the school to inspire the children. Singing assemblies take place weekly and is timetabled in each class's Music curriculum throughout the year through the Charanga Music Scheme.

Choir

Our school has a Key Stage 1 and a Key Stage 2 choir at specific times throughout the year. The choirs are open to all children. The Key Stage 2 choir takes part in special events and massed choir events with other schools. Children are encouraged to enjoy singing together but also to master some of the technical skills and habits necessary for good quality singing such as posture, breathing and tuning. They will be given opportunities to sing solos and to sing in parts or as a small ensemble in class assemblies or productions.

Foundation Stage

Singing is essential to children's verbal development and so every opportunity is taken for children to sing songs of welcome and short songs to fit any activity. Good singing promotes good speech, verbal processing and emotional development. We will also encourage the children to make up their own songs and to enjoy the freedom of being creative. Good quality singing means singing at a higher pitch to suit the short vocal cords of young children.

Key Stage 1

Children in Key Stage 1 will continue the above good practice and focus on developing increasing pitch, range and vocabulary in the voice through Charanga music sessions. They will learn the basics of good vocal production: avoiding straining and shouting, standing tall, dropping the jaw and breathing

correctly. Children will learn how to express themselves through the language of songs and enjoy the teamwork which singing together generates. They will be confident in composing their own songs within the curriculum.

Key Stage 2

As part of Key Stage 2 singing sessions, pupils will be introduced to rounds, part-singing and independent vocal development as well as encouraging children to enjoy expressing themselves and moving in time to songs. The singing becomes increasingly complex and skilled throughout KS2 and solo/group opportunities will also be offered. Children will be encouraged to join the choir to further develop their singing and the teamwork skills necessary to sing in a choir. Within the curriculum, children will continue to have opportunities to create their own songs and to grow in confidence about their own original ideas.

Regional Events attended

Young Voices – a massed event for schools at Birmingham

Local events include

Choir – singing in church
Beskilled Massed concert
Singing in public at the Loughborough Christmas Lights Switch-on

Resources in school

Charanga – scheme of work
Out of the Ark - Songs for Every Assembly, Christmas Carols
Fischy Music

School singing leads

Mrs Lawley, Mrs Harkins and Mrs Butlin

Teachers responsible for singing in school

All teachers lead singing in classes and may lead assemblies and singing practices

Partners and links include

Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub