

# A GUIDE TO KICK-STARTING SINGING AND MUSIC IN YOUR SCHOOL

## 25+ Achievable Ideas

### DO SOME RESEARCH

- ★ You might want to start by finding out who does what and where! Talk to your stakeholders.
- ★ See what musical talent you can find in the staffroom and which staff play an instrument. Ask them to help. You don't need to be experts - children won't know if you're grade 1 or 8!
- ★ Send a questionnaire to parents and find out if you have budding musicians in your school. Do pupils attend clubs or music lessons outside school? Ask the parents if they would like their child to engage with music in school – give a few examples, like joining the ukulele, recorder or ocarina club, or choirs etc.
- ★ Or ask the parents if they have musical talents and would be willing to come into school and share their knowledge – they might even be willing to set up or support a music club!
- ★ Research tells us that learning an instrument or singing in a choir contributes to overall wellbeing that could lead to greater progress and better academic outcomes for those who take part. At the beginning of the new term ask the children how they feel when they listen to, or participate in, music. At the end of the school year, ask the children again to compare and find out what difference musical engagement has made.

### GET SOME TRAINING

- ★ Encourage whole-staff engagement by finding CPD training opportunities that use songs to help deliver musical learning and link to the whole curriculum. Look out for local opportunities or try an Out of the Ark Music workshop – these can be arranged for your school, or groups of schools. Find out more on our website: [www.outoftheark.co.uk/resources/workshops](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/resources/workshops). It will be much easier if all the staff are engaged!

### ASSEMBLIES

- ★ Encourage discussion about music. Play some classical music when the children enter and leave assembly that you can talk about, they will start to recognise composers and pieces of music. With guidance ask a group of children to research pieces of music they could talk about in assembly or in the classroom.
- ★ Give children who play an instrument or sing an opportunity to showcase their talent. For example, by accompanying or leading singing assemblies. Ask your music specialist or local music hub to support these students in their lessons. Other children will be encouraged to join in, maybe by providing simple percussion initially, and later hopefully want to try out an instrument. This could be the start of your school orchestra!
- ★ If you have a school choir, ask them to perform in assembly and showcase their enthusiasm. Again, you might encourage more children to join!
- ★ Invite new instrumental clubs to perform too!

### GET SINGING

- ★ Before doing any singing, get warmed up – both in body and voice! To maintain a good, strong voice you need good posture, careful breathing, and focus - especially when warming up your vocal chords. Try S!ng™ Warm-ups! ([www.outoftheark.co.uk/sing-warm-ups.html](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/sing-warm-ups.html))
- ★ Start a choir with the whole school, or by age group. (Check out our 'Starting A Choir' blog: [www.outoftheark.co.uk/blog/sing-starting-a-choir](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/blog/sing-starting-a-choir)). Don't audition the children, their enthusiasm will be the most important thing! Be sure to pick songs that are appropriate for their vocal range - a musical theatre or pop song might not be suitable. If you aren't sure what to choose, take a look at our S!ng™ series to get you started. ([www.outoftheark.co.uk/series/sing](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/series/sing))

- ★ Find reasons to sing – when lining up, clearing up, in the playground, in assemblies, for Harvest, Christmas and Easter concerts, the summer fair and Christmas bazaar... or, visit a local old people's home and learn a few songs that they will enjoy. Don't miss an opportunity!
- ★ Have a 'sing off'. Ask different year groups to pick the songs they want to sing and 'battle it out'. Always give positive and constructive feedback to both groups. Video it and send it to us at Out of the Ark Music. We will feature it on our website – but don't forget your permissions!
- ★ Create positive energy with singing and music making games throughout the school day – you will find plenty of inspiration online.

## CLUBS

- ★ If you have a teaching assistant or teacher who likes to sing or play an instrument, start a lunchtime or after school club. This is about encouraging the children to engage with music and have a go. If they enjoy it, they will feel more positive and gain confidence. This will translate across everything they do.
- ★ When organising clubs, work with the person who creates the timetable and try not to clash music clubs with sports clubs if possible.

## SHOWCASE TALENT

- ★ Hold a musical soiree for budding instrumentalists, singers and composers. They need to be encouraged and playing to an audience will be recognition of all their hard work, but also great fun!
- ★ If you have some talented singers, ask them to audition for your yearly musical and nativity. Also, think about what performance opportunities there might be in the classroom - perhaps a mini-musical or class assembly? ([www.outoftheark.co.uk/series/class-assembly](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/series/class-assembly))
- ★ Why not work with other local schools to run a talent show? Perhaps link with a local secondary school who can provide a larger venue and start developing those arts links.

## INSPIRE

- ★ Run a whole music week or month! Give pupils a taste of different kinds of music by inviting local musicians or groups to perform in your school. Your music hub youth choir or orchestra, or even secondary school would be a great starting point.
- ★ Create opportunities for students to try different instruments. Invite your music hub to visit your school and bring all sorts of instruments along.
- ★ Book music workshops for example, samba, drumming or gamelan.
- ★ Demonstrate how to use online programmes like Garage Band and run help sessions during lunch breaks. Pupils will be composing tunes before you know it!

## ASK FOR HELP

- ★ If you haven't already done so, get in touch with your music hub! They are there to support your delivery of the music curriculum, start choirs and so much more.
- ★ Ask your music hub to help you create an action plan – perhaps 5 achievable things your school can do each term to develop a singing/musical school.
- ★ Ask your music specialist for support when planning your class assembly.
- ★ If you want to embed music in your school community, everyone needs to be supportive and willing to get involved.

# A SINGING SCHOOL IS A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL

## Action Plan

### YEAR 1 PLAN

GET STARTED!	SPRING TERM '19	SUMMER TERM '19
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★

### YEAR 2 PLAN

AUTUMN TERM 19'	SPRING TERM '20	SUMMER TERM '20
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★