

Case Study – Lead School for Music

Title – Maximum Enjoyment = for Maximum Participation!

Date:	November 2024
Written by:	Ann Robinson
School/setting:	Buttsbury Primary School
Purpose:	To promote a love and passion for singing and develop confidence through performance
Audience:	Parents and peers

Headline Details

The Year 3/4 choir is highly inclusive and provides opportunity for all the children to enjoy taking part in a production, performed to both parents and peers. It is a great pre-cursor for the Year 5/6 choir as taking part at a younger age, grabs the children's love of music.

Key Information

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Number of participants	87
Participant information (year group, ages, how participants were selected)	Year 3 and Year 4 (age 7 – 9) All children in the year groups were invited to take part. Auditions were held for the solo roles.
Key staff	Ann Robinson
Timescale/Key dates	December 2023 – March 2024
Cost	£50 – performance licence

Activity

A production of Roald Dahl's 'Snow White - Revolting Rhymes' was performed to peers and parents in March.

All children in Years 3 and 4 were invited to take part - 87 signed up - and came to regular lunch time rehearsals over a period of three months.

Auditions were held for the bigger parts but, other than that, all children were able to take part - every single child had their moment on stage.

The children learnt lots of songs and actions to accompany their singing.

The performances were amazing!

Impact on Participants and Staff

The children LOVED taking part and their confidence grew enormously. This was particularly noticeable for some of the quieter children who sometimes lack confidence. There was a chance for everyone to showcase their talent – within their own comfort zone. There was also an opportunity for more talented performers to take

on a larger role. Attendance improved – the lure of Year 3/4 choir brought one or two reluctant attenders to school!

Staff had their levels of expectation challenged – they saw children perform skilfully and, in some cases, well beyond the level of their expectation.

The production lead was delighted to see the impact on so many children.

The inclusivity of this choir means that it genuinely is for everyone. We have some children with ASD who love coming to the choir – they are supported to do so by, for example, being taken to lunch personally after – their confidence has soared as a result of being part of this event. The children shared the following comments, 'I love coming to choir and being on the stage – I can be a different person and I don't have to worry about other things,' and 'It's my favourite thing to do – I like singing and being part of the choir with others.'

We have a child with sporadic attendance who always comes to school on choir days – the highlight of her week! This was formally noted on her attendance plan and she commented 'If I have choir, I know I have something to really look forward to and it helps my tummy ache to go away'.

Learning

Participation levels were very impressive – the highest they have been for the Year 3/4 choir and, since the production, the Year 5/6 choir has expanded by 25% too so a genuine love of music has been fostered. The production was highly inclusive and the underlying principle, was that of fun!

There were challenges this year as the Small Hall was unavailable due to RAAC. This meant rehearsals had to be in the Computer Suite which made everything much more challenging.

Children's confidence grew. Their singing ability developed and they also made new friends, from other classes and year groups. They developed a love of singing and performing which they seem keen to exploit.



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