

The Voices Foundation and the National Curriculum



the voices foundation
transforming children through singing

Key Stage 2

At KS2, the skills and concepts will be extended further and children will:

- **Control sounds through singing and playing – performing skills**

Children will make use of their singing voice as the prime medium for making music responses. They will sing in unison and two parts, with clear diction, control of pitch, a sense of phrase and expression. From working with body rhythms, children will move to playing percussion instruments with rhythmic accuracy. Opportunities will be provided to perform in class and to larger audiences.

- **Create and develop musical ideas – composing skills**

The one-year programme includes improvising and composing as a means of reinforcing newly-acquired skills and concepts. The children will explore, choose and organise their ideas within melodic structure – e.g. using sequence, variation and inversion.

- **Respond and review – appraising skills**

Children will be encouraged to speculate and discuss their music experiences. They will consider their personal progress and be able to speak about it using appropriate technical language.

- **Listen, and apply knowledge and understanding**

The repertoire benefits from a diversity of material from other countries and traditions. From this, the programme makes use of a series of music elements; for example, pitch, rhythm, structure, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture. It is basically an aural/vocal approach because making a singing response requires that pupils make the sound themselves. Instruments are used when most appropriate, and improvising and composing are regular tools for helping to deepen understanding.

“All the other skills children get from the Voices one-year programme – confidence, concentration, listening skills, self-esteem, team work etc are essential if the children are to survive at Secondary School.”

Elizabeth Hills, Headteacher, Ilderton Primary, London