

the voices foundation

transforming children through singing

History

The Voices Foundation was founded in 1993 by Susan Digby OBE, following the award of a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship which enabled her to visit Finland, Hungary, Canada and the USA to study methods of music education and choral training. The main inspiration for The Voices Foundation was Susan Digby's observation of the work of the renowned music educationalist Zoltan Kodaly in Hungary.

The Voices Foundation then engaged Michael Stocks, as Director of Curriculum and Training, who was primarily responsible for creating the methodology that we use to this day. In this role, Michael did a lot to develop the methodology as well as devising and leading many of our training courses. He also trained many of our Music Consultants and oversaw the quality assurance of our work.

Since 1993 we have worked in hundreds of primary schools all over the country supporting teachers and providing direct benefits to thousands of children through our unique Musical Foundations programme which trains every teacher in the school to teach music with the same skills, confidence, and resource material that they have for all Foundation Subjects.

Over the years, the Voices Foundation has participated alongside other music education organisations, Music Education Hubs, the Incorporated Society of Musicians and Government to make singing a vital part of every child's entitlement. Susan Digby served on the Government's Music Manifesto working group and supported Marc Jaffrey (Music Manifesto Champion) in developing an increased emphasis on singing in schools.

Past Projects

- In 2004/5 the DfES (now DfE) provided the Voices Foundation with a major grant which funded a project in 16 schools in Southwark, Bolton and North Devon
- In 2007 we were chosen to deliver a DCSF Children's Centres pilot projects running over 3 years
- Following its launch in 2007, Voices Foundation had a close association with Sing Up (the Government-funded national singing campaign) which aimed to put singing back into the heart of primary schools
- From November 2007-March 2008 we delivered Singing Steps, our newly devised short workshop programme in 50 primary schools in England]

- In August 2008 we were appointed as one of Sing Up's 5 Flagship Organisations to help represent, develop and disseminate best practice in singing with primary aged children
- In the 2010/11 academic year we began an exciting collaboration with the Bach Choir supporting their Outreach Programmes in schools within the London Boroughs of Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea
- In 2014 we began our Choral Excellence programme which aims to support teachers to develop their skills for setting up and leading choirs
- In 2016 we develop our first extensive programme with secondary school music teachers, working across 7 academies which are part of the Creative Education Trust multi academy chain.