

the voices foundation

transforming children through singing



David Ross Education Trust

Broadening Horizons

**Voices Foundation Singing School:
Kings Heath Primary Academy, Northampton**

“Last year Kings Heath Primary Academy set out to start a music revolution in the Academy and we can safely say we have done just that! Through collaborative working with The Voices Foundation Kings Heath has become a singing school, which is a major part of the Academy's new identity. Staff and Pupils say singing makes them feel alive and helps them feel positive and as a result academic outcomes continue to rise” Kim Duff, Head Teacher

Kings Heath Primary Academy (part of the David Ross Education Trust) in Northampton became a Voices Foundation Singing School in September 2016. The Voices Foundation is working with 388 children from Nursery to Year 6 and over 30 teachers in this community primary school. The programme involves an extensive teacher development strand for all teaching staff in Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and weekly inspirational choral activities for all pupils across the school, reaching all pupils aged 4-11. This involves specialist input from leading music educators and choral directors and will ensure singing is embedded within the daily curriculum as well as establishing extra-curricular singing enrichment for pupils in Key Stage 2.

A dedicated Voices Foundation music leader visits the school on average 6 days per term to deliver whole school training as well as side-by-side in the classroom coaching and modelling sessions in music curriculum delivery through singing. One of our specialist choral leaders visits the school one day a week to deliver enriching whole school singing assemblies, Key Stage 2 Year group choirs and an aspirational KS2 chamber choir, the *Kings Heath Voices*. Charles works directly with the children as well as developing the Music Co-ordinator's skills and confidence to lead the choir and assemblies.

“There's a real buzz in the choir sessions and I know the pupils love them!” Kim Duff, Head teacher

The Voices Foundation Singing School programme is a new programme for schools that see music as a transformational opportunity for their children, teachers and wider community. Head Teacher, Kim understands the potential of music to be a catalyst for positive change in the school, which pupils have already begun to benefit greatly from. The aim is to develop all pupils musically and academically as well as socially, emotionally and behaviourally through singing.

The Kings Heath year-group choirs recently performed at the DRET Music Festival in Northampton which was their first public singing performance. The Voices Foundation is now working with 12 of the David Ross Education Trust's primary schools to develop teacher skills and subject knowledge.

Look out for more news about the progress of the Kings Heath Singing School.