



## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL SINGING SCHOOL PROGRAMME REACHES MUSIC TEACHER AWARDS FINALS**

**13 November 2017:** A Singing Schools programme devised by the [Voices Foundation](#) in collaboration with the [David Ross Education Trust](#) has been shortlisted for a prestigious music award.

Dubbed ‘the Oscars of the arts education sector’, the 2018 Music Teachers Awards have been created by the [Music and Drama Education Expo](#) to recognise and celebrate excellence in Music and Performing Arts Education. The Singing Schools programme delivered by the Voices Foundation in partnership with David Ross Education Trust has been nominated in the **Excellence in Primary/Early Years Award** category.

The Singing Schools programme has been nothing short of transformational: [Kings Heath Primary Academy](#) in Northampton, the only school to take part in the project in the programme’s first year, has seen an increase in Year 6 SATs results from 31% combined (reading, writing and Maths), to 64% combined.

Following this initial success, and thanks to the vision and ambition of the David Ross Education Trust together with the Voices Foundation, the programme has expanded with a further four David Ross Education Trust primary academies now taking part in the Singing Schools programme.

Through an extensive teacher development strand delivered by trainers from the Voices Foundation, the programme develops the skills and confidence of school staff to empower them to lead a high quality and effective singing-based music curriculum. Pupils and staff also receive regular visits from a dedicated choral director from the Voices Foundation who works directly with the children to develop their singing and choral technique.

Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music at the David Ross Education Trust, said: “Music is a central part of our vision to transform young people’s educational experiences.

“The Singing Schools programme has helped our pupils to engage with music and develop their aspirations, as well as being part of a valued and vibrant school community.

“We very much value our partnership with Voices Foundation and it is an absolute honour to be nominated for this award.”

Rebecca Le Brocq, Chief Executive of the Voices Foundation said: “We are honoured to have been nominated for this award in partnership with the David Ross Education Trust. At the Voices Foundation we believe passionately that music and singing should be at the heart of education. It is a privilege to work in collaboration with the David Ross Education Trust whose vision resonates closely with ours in this regard.

“The significant increase in SATs results at Kings Heath last year bears witness to the transformational power of the Singing School programme, and we’re thrilled that it has been recognised by this award nomination. Voices Foundation is now rolling out this programme to further schools in areas of disadvantage and we look forward to seeing the results.”

The Music Teacher Awards will be presented at the Sheraton Grand London Park Lane Hotel in Mayfair on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

## **OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES**

This incredible opportunity, which has been made possible by the David Ross Education Trust’s partnership with the Voices Foundation, is one of many opportunities made available through the Trust’s pioneering enrichment programme. Helping pupils to discover their talents, the David Ross Education Trust’s enrichment programme is among the very best that can be found in both the state and independent education sectors.

Both organisations share a passionate belief that music should be central to school life, and that music acts as a significant agent for school improvement.

## **ENDS**

### **Note to editors:**

The David Ross Education Trust is a network of unique and diverse academies, committed to becoming the top performing multi-academy trust in the country. The Trust works with 34 primary and secondary academies across the East Midlands, Yorkshire and the East of England. Our schools range from smaller rural primaries with around 50 children, to much larger secondary schools in the centre of more urban areas.

Further information about the David Ross Education Trust is available at [www.dret.co.uk](http://www.dret.co.uk)

To watch the Trust’s new film about life at our schools, click [here](#).

The Voices Foundation has been working since 1993 to help schools, academies, Music Education Hubs and other partners across the UK to establish sustainable and effective music education in their settings. Everyone has a voice, and singing is a powerful way for children to become proficient musicians.

For more information, please visit [www.voices.org.uk](http://www.voices.org.uk)

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