

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

### **VOICES FOUNDATION AND DAVID ROSS EDUCATION TRUST ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENTS OF TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**21 June 2018:** [The Voices Foundation](#) and the [David Ross Education Trust](#) have received a grant of £150,000 from the [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#) (PHF) to help deliver a pioneering initiative which focuses on embedding singing as an agent for overall school improvement.

The generous grant, donated by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's [Teacher Development Fund](#), will enable the two organisations to harness the power of singing to bring about sustainable change for whole schools. The work will be delivered over the next two academic years across schools based in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where a significant number of pupils experience disadvantage.

The Teacher Development Fund is a new initiative that supports the delivery of effective arts-based teaching and learning opportunities in the primary classroom, and embeds learning through the arts in the curriculum. It aims to support teachers and school leaders to develop the necessary skills, knowledge, confidence and experience to teach non-arts subjects using arts based approaches.

The Voices Foundation and the David Ross Education Trust share a passionate belief that music acts as a significant agent for school improvement and that it should be central to school life. The programme aims to improve outcomes in literacy, language and communication, cognitive development and behaviour, by developing a whole-school singing culture.

Moira Sinclair, Chief Executive at PHF said: "Learning through the arts can engage and inspire young people, support key educational outcomes and develop skills that prepare them for the next phase of their lives. For many young people, particularly those experiencing the most disadvantage, the only opportunity to gain access to arts education is at school. That's why we are delighted to announce the six partnerships that have received a grant from our Teacher Development Fund. We were impressed by the quality of applications and look forward to seeing how the projects equip teachers with the skills and confidence needed to provide quality and impactful education and learning through the arts."

Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music at the David Ross Education Trust, said: "Schools which place music at the heart of school life, engaging every pupil and every adult, every day, see lives transform. In partnership with The Voices Foundation, we look forward to working with Paul Hamlyn Foundation over the next two years to explore at a profound level the connection between purposeful music-making, academic attainment, social confidence and wellbeing".

Ed Milner, Interim Chief Executive of The Voices Foundation, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this grant from Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Together with the

David Ross Education Trust, we are passionate about the wider educational impacts of singing in schools, particularly on pupils facing disadvantage. Working with Paul Hamlyn Foundation will enable us to further explore and measure this impact.”

## **ENDS**

### **Note to editors:**

#### Voices Foundation

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.

[www.voices.org.uk](http://www.voices.org.uk)

#### David Ross Education Trust

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. The Trust’s pioneering enrichment programme helps pupils to discover their talents and is among the very best that can be found in both the state and independent education sectors.

[www.dret.co.uk](http://www.dret.co.uk)

#### Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation was established by Paul Hamlyn in 1987. Upon his death in 2001, he left most of his estate to the Foundation, creating one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK.

Our mission is to help people overcome disadvantage and lack of opportunity, so that they can realise their potential and enjoy fulfilling and creative lives.

We have a particular interest in supporting young people and a strong belief in the importance of the arts.

[www.phf.org.uk](http://www.phf.org.uk)

### **For further information, please contact:**

Edward Milner  
Interim CEO  
Voices Foundation  
**Tel:** 0207 520 1430  
**Email:** [vf@voices.org.uk](mailto:vf@voices.org.uk)

Shani Wortley  
PR & Communications Officer  
David Ross Education Trust  
**Tel:** 01476 566 801  
**Mob:** 07715 411 350  
**Email:** [swortley@dret.co.uk](mailto:swortley@dret.co.uk)

Hanif Leylabi  
Communications and Policy Officer  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
**Tel:** 020 7812 3331  
**Email:** [hleylabi@phf.org.uk](mailto:hleylabi@phf.org.uk)