

# Walwayne Court Primary School



Walwayne Court Primary School is a local authority maintained primary school in Trowbridge that has been awarded Sing Wiltshire status by Wiltshire Music Connect for 2024–25.

Sing Wiltshire schools place value on singing and the many benefits it brings to children and young people, and offer a broad and high-quality provision that enables the whole school community to develop a love of singing together.

## The curriculum

Curriculum music at Walwayne Court Primary is taught by class teachers using Charanga, with singing included in every lesson. Levels of musical experience among class teachers vary, but all teachers received CPD in the form of a Wiltshire Music Connect Singing Visit from Associate Kate Courage in the academic year 2022–23. Kate led a whole-school singing assembly to model strategies for teaching singing, and a whole-staff CPD session on approaches to teaching a song from scratch. This really helped to increase confidence levels among staff in teaching singing. The Music Subject Lead, Luke Pickett, also provides support to his colleagues when they have specific questions or areas that they need advice on.

Outside of the Charanga curriculum, teachers source and select their own songs to support learning in other curriculum areas. Songs are used to reinforce routines in EYFS and key stage 1, and to support the learning of number bonds and times tables throughout the school. Every class leads an assembly once a year where pupils share aspects of their learning with the rest of the school and their parents. These assemblies always include singing, and teachers often source songs based on the curriculum topics that are being featured.

## Whole-school singing

Music is an integral part of the weekly celebration assembly, with opportunities for collaborative singing and consolidation of the learning that takes place in curriculum music lessons. Each assembly begins with pupils listening to and discussing a different piece of music, with repertoire carefully selected to include a diverse range of genres, composers, and performers. The assembly ends with singing, with the Music Subject Lead selecting two songs per term that are linked to the school's values. These songs are not just sung in assembly, but are also partly taught to each class by their own teacher in class time, so that all staff are involved in the process of learning the songs and reinforcing the school values.



## Choir

Walwayne Court Primary School has a choir which is run all year round as an after-school club. It is open to all pupils and is led by the SENCO, who used to be the Music Subject Lead.

The choir performs in school events such as the Christmas carol service, the summer concert, and Christmas/summer fayres. Outside of school, the choir performs at community events and the local care home, and sometimes takes part in large-scale events such as Young Voices or Voice in a Million.

## Other performances and projects

The choir at Walwayne Court Primary takes part in the annual cluster project for the Wiltshire Music Connect Trowbridge/CSL (Collaborative Schools Limited) Cluster, which in 2023-24 involved the choir participating in a massed vocal performance with Wiltshire Young Musicians.

Walwayne Court Primary has taken part in projects run by the Voices for Life charity each year since 2022. These projects involve Voices for Life delivering ten one-hour workshops during Terms 1 and 2, followed by a massed rehearsal with other schools and culminating in performances at the Wiltshire Music Centre. Rather than reserving this opportunity for the choir, the school has targeted vulnerable learners (including those who are eligible for Pupil Premium and pupils with SEND) and those who would not normally have the opportunity to be involved in this type of activity, creating an inclusive ethos which promotes singing as something that is for everyone.

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## What can other schools take away from this case study?

- Having an experienced vocal leader delivering singing CPD to the whole staff is an excellent way to develop the confidence and skill of class teachers who are not music specialists.
- A joined-up approach where all staff have input into the learning of assembly songs in class time can help to raise the profile of singing and embed it in the wider life of the school.
- Targeting certain groups of pupils to participate in projects and performances, rather than always involving the choir, is a great way to make the singing provision more inclusive and enable pupils who might not otherwise have opted for singing activities to further their skills and enjoyment.



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