



MUSIC IN HACKNEY SCHOOLS

VCM PROVIDES MUSIC EDUCATION IN HACKNEY SCHOOLS

The foundation has worked with Hackney since 2007 and has recently been leading a large project involving 29 primary and secondary schools across the borough. Called The Open Mind Programme, the project was designed in discussion with the Music Hub and was made possible with help from the ACE's Grants for the Arts. It began in January 2015 and runs until June 2016.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To inspire the children and teachers through working and singing with a professional a cappella ensemble.
- To establish a sustainable culture of creativity/ inspiration for the pupils.
- To help primary school class teachers develop the skills and confidence to lead singing with their classes.
- To provide teachers with the skills and resources to use with future classes and with choirs (in both primary and secondary schools).
- To give participants the opportunity to visit and perform in a memorable venue.
- To help participants build their self-confidence and to develop their teamwork skills and musical awareness.
- To help the Young Leaders develop and implement leadership skills.
- To establish a longer-term relationship with primary and secondary schools in the borough.

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MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Children enjoying the interactive warm-ups, VOCES8 Method and singing.
- Children and students demonstrate growing self-confidence and teamwork skills.
- Young Leaders demonstrate the development of leadership skills.
- Classroom teachers take part in the sessions and are using the warm-ups VOCES8 Method, and new songs.
- Children employ performance skills learnt.

HOW VCM EVALUATES OUR PROJECTS

- A teacher questionnaire at the end of the project.
- A questionnaire for visiting staff and parents at the performance at the Gresham Centre.
- Interviews with classroom teachers Music Coordinators and Music teachers.
- Visits and a report by external evaluators.
- Meetings with and feedback from Hackney Music Service.
- Sessions with Apollo5 to reflect on the progress of each class and the Young Leaders, and develop new strategies when needed.



IMPACT OF OUR WORK IN HACKNEY

When the Open Mind Programme finishes in Hackney it will have worked with:

- 27 primary schools – over 2,000 children and their teachers.
- 2 secondary schools;
- Hackney Borough Senior Choir.
- Hackney Borough Junior Choir.

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WHAT THE TEACHERS AND CHILDREN SAY

VCM has provided primary school teachers with the skills, resources and confidence to lead singing with their classes.

“The year 1s have gained enormously from having trained musicians and singers work with them, as well as providing skills and practices for their teachers to use in music. Without Apollo5 I wouldn’t have been able to have provided ideas, warm ups nor songs of the same quality and the children wouldn’t have learnt anywhere near as much.”

VCM has inspired the participants and helped the children, teenagers and young leaders develop their self-confidence, teamwork and leadership skills, listening skills and musical awareness.

“They have developed a love and enthusiasm for singing. Confidence has dramatically improved.”

“A real love for singing and appreciation that it can be hard work. They learnt to work as a team.”

“Listening is important. So is learning the words and practising to get it right. Singing makes me feel happy.” A year 3 pupil from Hackney

“The children have developed their confidence and speaking and listening skills greatly.”

“When is Apollo5 coming back to our school? We want to learn more songs with them.”

A year 4 pupil from Hackney

VCM has held celebration performance events at the Gresham Centre for over 2,000 children and their teachers.

“There was a real sense of occasion leading up to the event which meant the children worked hard to prepare for it. They loved performing for the other classes and parents and felt part of a ‘professional event’ as the famous Apollo5 were performing too!”

“VOCES8 came to my primary school and then helped the choir. They were amazing. Now I am in the Youth Choir and working with Apollo5. They have inspired and encouraged me.”

A secondary school pupil from Hackney

“The young leaders really inspired the children in our classes. They could see it was ‘cool’ to sing.”

“The young leaders were able to lead the whole audience in warm-ups and the VOCES8 Method. Their confidence has grown enormously.”

“I didn’t think I could stand up and lead a song but Apollo5 was really helpful and encouraging and I learned how to do it. I’m so proud of what I’ve done.” A Hackney Young Leader