



## **OfSTED'S VIEW OF MUSIC PROVISION – 2013**

Ofsted published a report on Friday 15 November 2013 [Music in schools: what hubs must do – the challenging conversation with schools – November 2013 No.130231] which challenges schools and Music Education Hubs to work together to improve music provision.

The report tackles the issues that continue to exist in schools' whilst recognising *'the significant contribution that music can make to the wider life of each school and to broader school improvement.'*

It was also found that Music Education Hubs working at their very best can challenge and support school leaders to bring the numerous benefits of a good music education to all pupils, not simply the few who choose, or have the resources, to specialise in the subject or on an instrument.

### **A SUMMARY OF WHAT SCHOOLS NEED TO KNOW**

Ofsted states that:

- Music Education Hubs should **expect and secure that all schools engage with Hubs and the National Plan for Music Education.**
- **Music is a demanding academic discipline, developed through exciting practical musical activity.**
- There is work to be done to help school leaders and teachers realise this aspiration; the **music curriculum in most schools lacks depth and rigour.**

### **A SUMMARY OF WHAT SCHOOLS NEED TO DO**

Ofsted states that:

- All school leaders should **ensure that music is regularly taught.**
- Schools should **evaluate their music provision more accurately**, especially in the curriculum.
- Schools and teachers should **ensure that all pupils are introduced to a wide range of music.**
- **Musical learning in schools should go beyond enjoyment and performance**, promoting a wider range of musical knowledge, skills and understanding which stem from 'exciting practical musical activity'.
- Planning across the whole curriculum should have progression at its core and needs to be more cohesive and less atomised. Ofsted warns that:

**KEY POINT:** *"In primary schools, and at Key Stage 3, the planned curriculum in the schools visited was too often a shallow musical odyssey, with ... units of work on various styles of music [eg. world music, blues, hip hop, rap and pop]. ... it was rare for links to be made between them."*

- **Singing should be developed** through all primary and secondary schools.
- We need **higher expectations at Key Stage 3** and better planning for the development of the knowledge, skills and understanding required in order to better prepare pupils for study at Key Stages 4 and 5.

## **JUDGING THE QUALITY OF TEACHING AND MUSIC**

Ofsted states that:

- Senior leaders in schools should make informed, realistic judgments on the quality of a lesson **based upon musical learning and progress** not non-musical factors.
- Senior leaders should observe and challenge the quality of music education provided by their own and visiting music teachers.
- Even where provision was not strong, senior leaders **frequently over-estimated the quality** of the musical activity in their schools.
- Training and advice for teachers and senior leaders in schools can be provided by their Music Education Hub

**KEY POINT:** The assessment of music must be **musical** and **appropriate**. *“Elaborate whole-school assessment systems, not tailored to music specifically, disrupted the flow and musical purposes of the lessons.”*

## **HOW SCHOOLS CAN ACHIEVE THIS**

Ofsted suggests:

- Make better use of the provision and funding provided through Music Education Hubs.
- Expect Music Education Hubs to provide them with expert advice and challenge and take action on this.
- Evaluate their musical provision more accurately, especially teaching and the curriculum, and seek training and advice as needed.
- Senior leaders should observe and challenge the quality of music education provided by their own and visiting music teachers.

## **WHAT DERBYSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB CAN DO TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL**

From September 2012 music education in England has been supported by local Music Education Hubs. This is an action point from ‘The Importance of Music – A National Plan for Music Education’ (NPME) launched November 2011 by Michael Gove and Ed Vaizey.

Music Education Hub funding is designed to ‘support and augment’ schools’; core funding for music in the school curriculum still comes through the DfE directly.

To support you and your school, we can:

- **Meet with you to evaluate the quality of music provision in your school both in classroom teaching and with external music providers.**
- **Conduct observations or joint observations of music teachers in your school to ensure that musical learning, understanding and progress are clearly recognised.**
- **Work with your teachers to evaluate the quality of the music curriculum and how your school engages with the Derbyshire Music Education Hub.**

**Derbyshire City & County Music Partnership** is the lead partner of the **Derbyshire Music Education Hub** serving schools in both the city and county local authorities.

Please contact us with any questions or queries, and visit our website for information on what the Hub offers.

**i** [www.derbyshiremusiceducationhub.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiremusiceducationhub.org.uk) **✉** [music.partnership@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:music.partnership@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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