

Suffolk County Music Service
Our Ref: SMTX/SMH/Vocal Strategy/Vocal CPD
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Headteachers of all Suffolk LA Maintained and
Academy Primary Schools

Dear Colleagues

Suffolk County Music Service CPD Offer 2018

We are writing to invite your school to participate in a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) that aims to support schools to develop and enhance sustainable programmes of singing with their pupils.

During this programme Tracey Rayner, our SCMS Senior Vocal Tutor, and our vocal team, will work with colleagues in schools to develop and enhance their skills to lead and develop effective strategies to support high-quality teaching and learning of singing with their own pupils. Tracey has a background as a Suffolk primary school music practitioner, with significant experience and expertise as a leader of children's vocal activities, and of developing the use of the voice as a major contributor to pupils' musical learning.

A key recommendation of both the *National Plan for Music* and the most recent Ofsted report *Music in schools: what hubs must do* (November 2013) is that Music Hubs should be developing pupils' singing. Indeed, the Suffolk Music Education Hub (SMEH), of which the County Music Service is the lead organisation, is specifically charged with *Developing a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil is singing regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.*

This programme of vocal CPD is offered to cluster groups of schools who are willing and able to commit to working together, both in terms of supporting school-to-school combined CPD delivered to teachers (including teaching assistants) across the cluster group of schools, and who are able to facilitate the CPD for their own individual teachers. A cluster might include MAT clusters, or local geographical clusters. Participating schools will need to ensure that they are aware of, and agree to allocate the time required for the successful completion of this CPD action research programme (as defined within the *CPD Plan and Key Expectations* document) for their nominated Singing Leader.

This programme of CPD will take place during the spring and/or summer terms 2018. Cluster groups of participating schools will need to agree at which age group the programme is targeted, for example KS1, lower or upper KS2 age ranges.

With this letter we enclose an overview of the CPD programme and key expectations document which sets out key steps, the proposed commitments of all partners involved, and the estimated programme cost. The basic programme consists of a cluster group CPD session; targeted CPD for individual classroom colleagues in their schools, and with their pupils; a vocal resource pack; support during the classroom action research element of the CPD; opportunities to observe models



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of good practice and to deliver within a supported environment; and a culmination and sharing of outcomes.

We wish to make it clear from the outset that this CPD is offered to all those members of school staff who are committed to developing high-quality teaching and learning of singing in school: even if you already have somebody who is an experienced or a confident singing leader; they are not excluded from this as the materials and process alone will offer support for them that they would be able to use to lead the development of singing across their own settings. Alternatively, you may have on your staff those who, whilst keen and committed to leading children in singing, feel that they are less experienced and less confident in doing so either within their own class or across school, etc. Whatever your staff's personal experience, all are welcome!

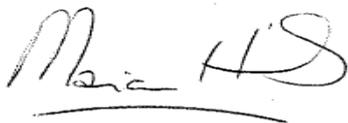
The cost for this CPD is kept to a minimum through economies of scale gained by working with other schools. Last year the charge per CPD programme was £1500, which was split between schools in the cluster participating. Schools might also wish to explore the possibility of sourcing funding to support this offer through local, regional and national grant giving organisations.

Whilst we make this offer as an open offer to any and all cluster groups of schools that might wish to participate, we must also make clear that we only have capacity during each term to work with a small number of cluster groups.

If you are interested in finding out more about this offer please contact us immediately by email to county.music@ Suffolk.gov.uk with an expression of interest, so that we can make contact with you. We will require confirmation from all Headteachers within the proposed cluster group of schools before proceeding. Alternatively, if you would like to consider being part of this offer in subsequent years please also contact us, making clear when this offer might best suit your cluster of schools' calendars, e.g. autumn term 2018, spring term 2019, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marion Hinds', with a horizontal line underneath.

Marion Hinds
Deputy Head of Suffolk County Music Service
Directorate of Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services