Portsmouth Music Hub Case Study 3

Singing Champions

At the beginning of the academic year, Portsmouth Music Hub launched **Singing Champions**, a youth-led vocal initiative designed to empower children and young people across the city to take ownership of their singing and musical development. Rooted in the Hub's long-standing commitment to inclusive and accessible music-making, the initiative places young voices at the centre of the initiative.

Schools were invited to appoint up to four pupils from Years 5 to 8 to become their Singing Champions. These pupils are enthusiastic young vocal ambassadors who represent their school, promote singing activities, and help create a culture of confident musical expression.

The initiative provides structured opportunities for pupils to develop their vocal skills, take on leadership roles, and shape singing within their school communities.

Newly elected Singing Champions were invited to attend their first online workshop on 23 October 2025, with an additional in-person workshop led by singer/songwriter Emily Barden on 7 November.

24 children the following schools have joined the newly launched initiative:

- Gatcombe Park Primary School
- Milton Park Primary School
- Redwood Park Academy
- Solent Junior School
- St. Jude's CfE Primary School
- St. Paul's Catholic Primary School

In addition to the online and in-person workshops the appointed pupils have formed the Singing Champions Choir, who were invited to perform at the *Shaping Portsmouth* Conference in January 2026.

PP	EAL	SEN	EHCP	Not WBRI
34%	22%	32%	20%	35%

Singing Champions has been carefully designed to enrich vocal provision across Portsmouth by supporting singing in every school setting, from classrooms to assemblies, and by enabling pupils to take an active role in leading music, placing responsibility and creativity directly in their hands.

The initiative nurtures the growth of student-led vocal groups and reduces pressure on staff by empowering young people to model singing and lead warm-ups with confidence. Through this approach, a strong culture of singing emerges; one built on peer leadership and collaboration, where pupils inspire and motivate one another.

This youth-led structure strengthens school singing sustainably, with young leaders acting as catalysts for meaningful and lasting change.

Pupils are encouraged to shape repertoire choices, lead warm-ups, model vocal techniques, and contribute to performance ideas, ensuring the programme reflects the energy, creativity and interests of the young people who drive it.

Further workshops, activities, and opportunities are already planned for the summer term, ensuring that Singing Champions continues to grow, evolve, and provide meaningful leadership experiences for pupils.