

How to be a great choir

CHORAL SOUND

- **Head voice** – light voice, sirens, humming
- **Chest voice** – heavy speaking voice
- **Resonance** – tall, matched vowels
- **Breathing** – deep and centred, controlled
- **Confidence** – sound projection

ACCURACY

- **Pitch** – in tune
- **Rhythms** – precise
- **Beat** – inner pulse, keeping time, at correct tempo
- **Listen** carefully to others

PART SINGING

- Secure parts
- Confident entries
- Balanced, equal sound across choir

LYRICS

- Practise and learn from memory
- Crisp diction
- Clear consonants and vowels
- Uniformity of sound and mouth shape
- Listen
- Attention to detail

TEAM WORK

- Focus
- Preparation
- Self-discipline
- Respect
- Awareness and support of others
- Empathy
- Learn concert and performance manners
- Persistence

DYNAMICS

- **Volume** – control of voice and or tone from soft to loud **pp – ff**
- Able to follow conductors' gestures and directions to shape the music

PRESENTATION

- **Posture:** stand tall, feet slightly apart, arms relaxed by side
- Sit towards front of chair, feet flat on floor, hold music up
- Eyes on conductor, engaged
- Confident

EXPRESSION

- **Face and body** tell the story, interested face
- Connection to lyrics, match mood of the song

LITERACY

- Song understanding and knowledge
- Face and body reflect mood of song

MUSICAL LITERACY

- Know and use the signs, symbols and terms
- Confident use of Songbook



Choir Rubric

| OVERALL ASSESSMENT | EXCELLENT <i>Wow!</i> A | GOOD <i>On the way</i> B | SATISFACTORY <i>Tracking well</i> C | PARTIAL <i>Not there yet</i> D |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Choral Sound | Clear focused tone. Excellent voice projection. Well matched vowels. Excellent support for breathing / phrasing. | Mostly clear focused tone. Good voice projection. Good vowel formation. Good support for breathing / phrasing. | Tone developing. Adequate voice projection. Vowels satisfactory. Support for breathing / phrasing ok. | Needs more energy to help voice projection. Harsh or weak tone in many sections. Vowels not well matched. More support for breathing / phrasing. |
| Accuracy | Always ... on- pitch , correct rhythms , a steady beat . | Nearly always ... | Generally ... | Keep working on ... |
| Lyrics | Fully memorised. Excellent diction. Precise consonants. | Mostly memorised. Good diction. Mostly good consonants. | Generally memorised. Satisfactory diction. Focus on strong consonants. | Not memorised. Unclear diction. Find uncertain sections and practice. |
| Part Singing | All parts secure and confident. Well balanced sound. | Mostly secure, confident parts. Mostly balanced sound, one part insecure. | Generally well-known parts. Adequate balance between parts, some voices louder. | Parts not well-known yet. Choose small sections, consolidate. Secure entry notes to build confidence. |
| Dynamics | Excellent demonstration of dynamics . | Effective... | Some variation... | Not yet... |
| Expression | Highly expressive performance – faces and bodies ‘tell the story’. | Good use of facial and body expression . | Adequate facial and body expression . | No expression – add some energy to your face and body. |
| Teamwork | Outstanding! Completely self-managed. Excellent teamwork and support for each other. | Good! Mostly self-managed. Good teamwork and support for each other. | Getting there! Some reminders and direction needed. Work more towards being a team. | Keep working on being a team and managing your own behaviour. |
| Presentation | Always... Standing and sitting tall. Eyes on conductor. Great focus. Interested face. | Nearly always... | Often... | Keep working on... |
| Literacy Song understanding | Deep understanding of what songs are about, style and composer. | Good understanding... | Satisfactory understanding... | Partial understanding... |
| Musical literacy Musical knowledge | Can explain and use musical terms, signs, and symbols. | Can identify musical terms, signs, and symbols. | Engaged in learning musical terms, signs, and symbols. | Not confident... Unclear knowledge of musical concepts. |