



MAC Makes Music Annual Review 2017-18



Report prepared for MAC Makes Music by Nicola Burke



What is MAC Makes Music?

MAC Makes Music provides high quality music making activities for children and young people in challenging circumstances across the West Midlands; Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull and Worcestershire. The MAC Makes Music programme aims to create new opportunities and influence sustained music making activity for those with limited access to music provision. Our passion is to offer young people high quality music making experiences. Our team of highly experienced musicians encourage exploration of musical ideas and facilitate the music making using a range of practical approaches. The young person's voice is at the heart of all of the MAC Make Music projects.



Throughout 2017-2018 MAC Makes Music worked with:

- Families
- Pupil Referral Units
- Charities
- Primary Schools
- Children's Services
- A centre for newly arrived children
- Special Schools
- Resource Bases
- Parents and young children in their Early Years

MAC Makes Music also worked with:

- Five Music Education Hubs across the region and supported them to create an inclusion strategy for 2018-2021

MAC Makes Music continued to:

- Provide guidance & training to teachers in special schools, pupil referral units and resource bases
- Offer support and training for music leaders



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Our year in numbers

Throughout 2017-2018 MAC Makes Music

Worked with
693
young people

Delivered
1,036
group music
making
sessions

Delivered
880
1:1 music
making
sessions

Supported
182
young people
to achieve an
Arts Award

Enabled
29
performance/
music making
sharing events





MAC Makes Music has the **young person's voice at the heart of all music making**.

Our music leaders encourage collaboration between the music leader and the young people, and between the young people themselves. The young people's ideas, interests and thoughts are valued and nurtured and the young people are encouraged to listen to and respect one another. The environment created by the Music Leaders is a **safe space** that encourages young people to express themselves and for one another to listen to each other. A range of forms of communication is valued including musical, verbal and physical enabling the voice of the young person to be heard.

"The individualised nature of this project lent itself to supporting pupils to improve upon their self-confidence."

Member of staff from a setting



"The pupil's 'positive-ness' and enthusiasm (**doing something different as music is not normally timetabled**) meant that some pupils were enthusiastic and positive because a recording was something they were really interested in doing. Practical nature of the subject really appealed to these pupils."

Member of staff from a setting

"I feel that child led work is again at the heart of the building of team work skills, as it allows the young people to respond to their peers, in ways they might not respond to adult direction."

MAC Makes Music, music leader



What do our music making sessions involve?

Types of music making activity

- Arranging music
- Composing
- Exploring graphic notation
- Improvising
- Lyric writing
- Melody writing
- Musical games
- Performing & Sharing
- Rhythm games
- Singing & vocal technique
- Song writing
- Watching live musicians perform

“K was so excited to share his lyric ideas for re writing Tipperary, and his group loved singing it together. He really enjoyed the way his new song made people laugh. Others have expressed ideas for pieces, from small details such as instrumentation, structure, feeling and dynamics to bigger ideas of themes and how the music made them feel or what it reminded them of.”

MAC Makes Music, music leader

“Composing and performing as a group and taking part in whole school productions has greatly improved pupil’s self-esteem and confidence.”



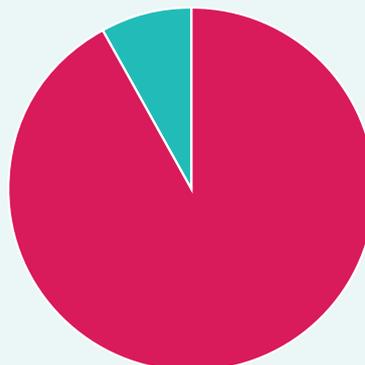
Member of staff from a setting



Staff from all settings were asked to rate strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following Statement

The project engaged with the need and interests of the young people

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Instruments and resources used in sessions included:

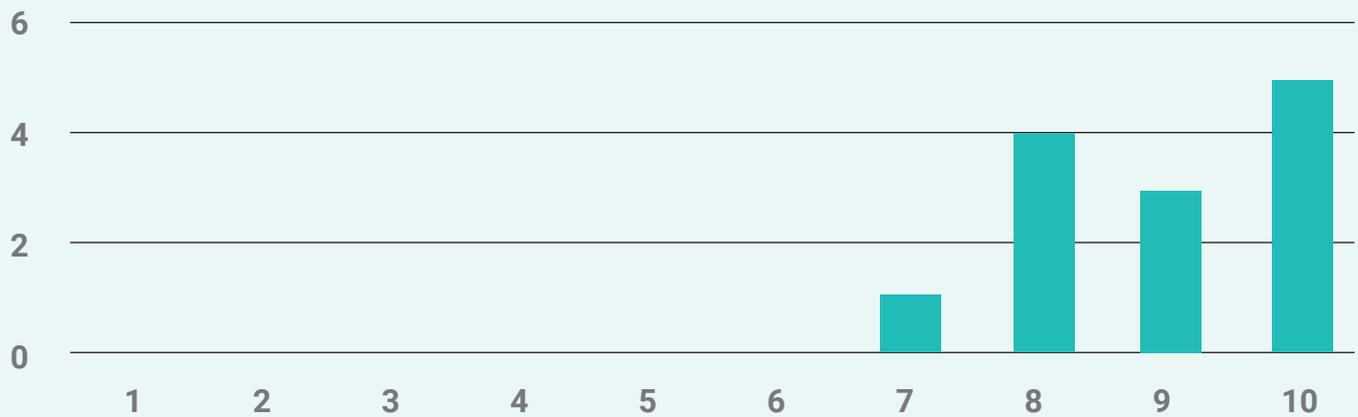
- Balafon
- Bamboo Tamboo
- Bass
- Cajon
- Cello
- Chime bars
- The Clarion
- Dhol Drum
- Digital Technologies e.g. Eyegaze, SmartNav, Mogeas
- Djembes
- Doumbeks
- Drums & drum kits
- Drum machines
- Dun duns
- Flute
- Gong
- Guitars (electric & acoustic)
- Hand bells
- iPads
- Irish Bodhran
- Keyboards
- Looper
- Megaphone
- Melodica
- Nigerian talking drum
- Nintendo Wii
- Ocarinas
- Piano
- PBuzz
- Push
- Samba drums
- Samplers
- Scrunchies/parachutes
- Software e.g. Charanga's VIP Studios
- Synthesisers
- Theremin
- Tongue Drum
- Ukuleles
- Violin
- Wind Chimes
- Xbox Kinetic
- Xylophones



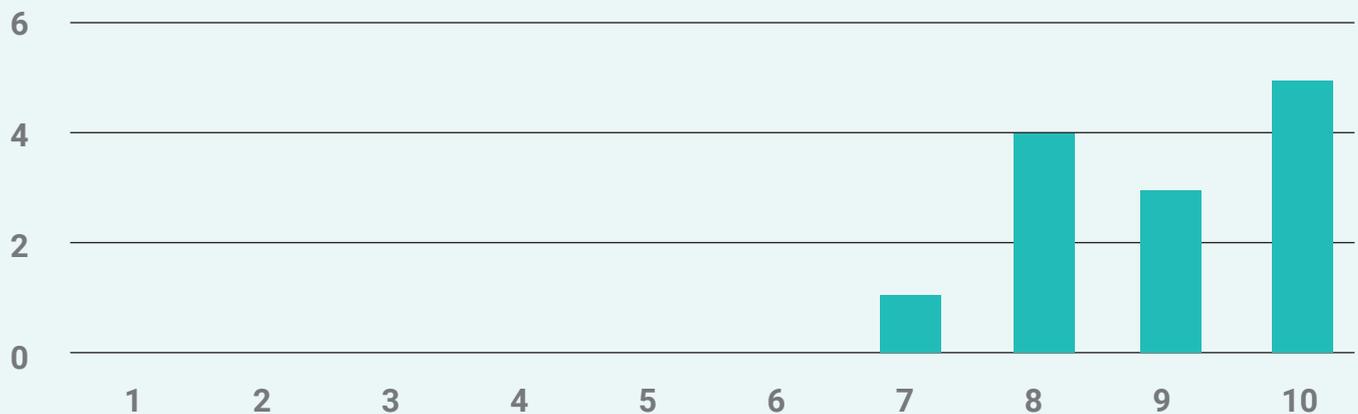
Further evidence gathered demonstrates other areas of impact

Staff from all settings were asked to rate the following:

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being lowest), please rate the level of the development of the young people's self-esteem and confidence



On a scale of 1-10 (1 being lowest), please rate the level of the development of the young people's social and communication skills



Comments from setting staff:

"They are so proud of their achievements and are keen to repeat the experience. I have seen their confidence and self-esteem grow."

"You could see he was so proud of himself for his achievement and this had a massive impact on his confidence and self-esteem as well as his self-belief and self-worth."

"One student found it very helpful to self-reflect and see his confidence grow."

"This project has helped the students to communicate with each other and work together in their projects."

"The project built confidence in young people and made young people engage in conversations with students they had no connection with but who admired what they were doing."

"The music sessions are great as young people have to work together, listen to one another, take turns, learn to support each other, develop their communication and social skills."

Comments from participants:

"I have really enjoyed today, it goes so quickly. I was nervous about playing and singing, but I feel far more confident now."

Performance

Throughout the MAC Makes Music programme young people have had the opportunity to share and perform their work within sessions in their settings as well as at professional performance venues such as Midlands Arts Centre; Ruddock Performing Arts Centre and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra centre. Young people have also had the opportunity to be audience members and observe professional performances. Opportunities for the young people to perform and share their music has proven to be very beneficial and supported young people to develop their confidence, self-efficacy and self-esteem.



“The students got an insight into music performance. They also got a chance to watch a film and ask one of the cast members about it through a question and answer session. This kind of interaction would normally be seen in at a film premiere so this was a realistic, direct reflection performance in the music industry. The students then had a chance to have a listening session, this is normally done when an artist has a project they are about to release, and the attendees would usually be industry professionals such as DJ’s agents, managers and fellow artist etc.”

MAC Makes Music, music leader



“I found it exciting (performing). I would like to do it again.”

Comment from a participant



“I enjoyed practising with you. When I sang my solo I felt fantastic.”

Comment from a participant

City of Birmingham School

City of Birmingham School (COB) is Birmingham City Council's Pupil Referral Unit. COB aims to make things better for pupils experiencing difficulties in other schools in Birmingham.

The school has 10 specialised teaching centres across the City offering personalised educational programmes to pupils from age 5 to 16. Throughout 2017-2018 MAC Makes Music worked with both primary and secondary COB centres offering a range of music making opportunities.

"It's been positive, the kids loved it, it's got them engaged in something practical and in an institution like this the kids need practical skills rather than academic so it's really important."

Quotes from staff members:

"I feel that the students were behaving differently in the project sessions because they are more engaged in these sessions and they feel that they are getting skills from them which they didn't have before."

"It's helped pupils to relax and develop strategies to manage their feelings."



Song lyrics written by participants throughout the MAC Makes Music programme



Music is...

Joyful,
For everything you feel,
There's music in your head,
Music in your heart,
And in the rhythm you beat,
And in your eyes, the things you see.

We can make different sounds,
Compose our own beats, make songs,
Organise sound for pieces about rainbows, forests and ghosts

We sing to entertain

We sing to let our feelings out
We sing when we're feeling brave
Stand up and Shout:
Out Loud (shh shh)
Out Loud (shh shh)

Listening to music my heart opens, yeah opens
I get these feelings 'cause I'm gifted, yeah gifted
When I sing it's all right, yeah it's all right
I get these feelings 'cause I'm gifted, yeah gifted

We're ready to perform
Something for tomorrow
Ready to perform
Face the fear

We sing to entertain...

Hiding in the crowd I'm nervous, yeah nervous
Get down on my knees I'm scared, yeah scared
Only one on stage it's all right, yeah it's all right
I get these feelings 'cause I'm gifted, yeah gifted

We're ready to perform
Something for tomorrow
Ready to perform
Face the fear

We sing to entertain

Face Your Fears

It could be mistaken identity as if there was another me.
Targeted for my difficulties do I deserve this history?

We're in this together

She just walked away from the situation
She went and had another conversation
She just walked away from the confrontation
She went and had another destination

Face Your Fears (repeat x 3)
I'll get up off the ground
There ain't no doubt about it
Tomorrow's a new day if you mess up that's ok
Forget about yesterday and the memories will fade away

MAC Makes Music would like to thank the following partners for being involved throughout 2017-2018:

Braidwood School
Birmingham Music Education Partnership
Chadsgrove School
City of Birmingham School
Coventry Music Education Hub
Fox Hollies School
Hallmoor School
Hargate Primary School
Hawthorn Primary School
The Meadows School
Merstone School
Music and the Deaf
Northern House School
Percy Shurmer Academy
Regency High School
Quench Arts
Riverbank Academy
Sandwell Music Education Hub
Selly Oak Trust School
Sherbourne Fields School
Solihull Music
Solihull Children's Services
STEPS Centre
The Westminster School
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy
Worcestershire Music Education Hub
Looked After Children, Families and Communities Team,
Worcestershire County Council

Throughout 2018-2019 MAC Makes Music aims to:

Deliver a progressive programme of music inclusion aligned with MAC's strategy to be a centre of excellence in the areas of access to the arts and disability.



Support a network of Music Education Hubs in Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull and Worcestershire to develop effective practice in music making approaches for working with disabled young people and those who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties.



Model child centred creative approaches; champion a culturally diverse music offer and promote the use of accessible resources in order to influence change and develop an ambitious wide reaching regional music offer for those experiencing the greatest barriers.



Develop new pathways for progression including developing a regional ensemble; supporting the National Open Youth Orchestra and exploring other potential pathways in the music/arts industry.



Continue delivering a comprehensive workforce development programme to upskill current music leaders as well as develop emerging ones.



Measure musical, social and personal outcomes in order to evidence the wider value and positive impact of music on the lives of children and young people.



Access

MAC is committed to offering a welcoming and accessible environment in which everyone can feel comfortable. We want to take any worry or difficulty out of your visit, so that you can focus on having a great time.

You can find full details (including an audio guide) about all of our accessible facilities and services at macbirmingham.co.uk/access, or physical copies can be picked from our Sales & Information desk.



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