

MUSIC · ADULT REFERENCE

Non-Specialist Confidence Pack — Music

Yes, even if you can't sing

First — the honest preamble

The 10-minute music lesson template



Things you can say (instead of singing)

When you HAVE to sing

Body percussion — your safest territory



Listening lesson — full script

Christmas production — the truth about it

What works for non-specialists, what doesn't

Activity type	Difficulty	Recommended?
Listening lessons with discussion	Low — no singing needed	★★★ Yes
Body percussion patterns	Low — anyone can clap	★★★ Yes
Sing-along with backing track	Low — track does the singing	★★★ Yes
Untuned percussion ensemble (claves, tambourines)	Low-Medium — needs management	★★★ Yes
Composition using Chrome Music Lab	Low — children drive	★★★ Yes
Tuned percussion (xylophone, glockenspiel)	Medium — need to demo notes	★★ With prep
Recorders class lesson	Medium-High — needs musical skill	★ Only if you've had CPD
Solo singing demonstration	High — exposes voice	Avoid if you don't want to



Activity type	Difficulty	Recommended?
Choir rehearsal lead	Very high	Music coordinator's job
Theory teaching from scratch	High — needs sequence knowledge	Use the music scheme

Things music coordinators wish you knew

Children don't judge your voice

Adults who think they 'can't sing' often have anxiety from being told that as a child. Children themselves don't care.

The scheme does the work

If your school has Charanga, Sing Up, Out Of The Ark, etc. — use it. The lessons are designed for non-specialists.

Recorded music is real music

A listening-only lesson can be as musically rich as a singing one. Don't undervalue listening.

Children remember songs forever

The songs they learn in primary stay with them for life. This is a privilege of the role.

You don't need to read music

Most primary class teachers don't. Use letter-name notation if you must read at all.

If you genuinely can't, ask

Music coordinators would rather take a difficult song off your hands than have it delivered badly. Ask for help.

