

Richmond Avenue Primary and Nursery School

Subject Rationale



Music

Ethos

Our aim is to create a rich learning environment, enabling every pupil to fulfil his or her potential. We are committed to the highest possible educational standards, with a matching concern for the personal growth and development of each pupil.

Intent

A balanced music curriculum at Richmond Avenue Primary and Nursery School enables the children to develop their musical creativity through practical and exploratory opportunities to develop as performers, song makers, composers, improvisers and listeners. As they move through school, the children should develop an increasing understanding of the history of music, learning about music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. We passionately believe that all children should have equal access to a high-quality music curriculum that allows them to gain an enjoyment of making and listening to music, as well as develop progressive skills.

Music promotes diversity and is used to express the children's personal, emotional, social and cultural identity.

Children not only learn about music but they will develop a love of music, becoming musicians who are able to share and perform using their new knowledge.

Our intent is to achieve this through a progressive scheme as well as diverse opportunities through extra-curricular clubs and opportunities to perform in the local community.

Implementation

The children's formal music education starts as soon as they enter school. Children are given many opportunities to sing and explore instruments throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1, with an organised progression of skills, which are re-visited frequently throughout their primary years. By Key Stage 2, children are expected to start composing more structured pieces of music, often in groups. This encourages improved social and listening skills, in addition to the many musical skills that are being taught. The focus of these class lessons is on the seven common musical elements: tempo, dynamics, pitch, structure, texture, timbre and duration.

Early Years

In the Nursery, practitioners work with children to distinguish different sounds and enjoy group singing. This progresses in reception where Music is taught weekly focusing on percussion and singing. Musical enjoyment and awareness of different sounds and instruments is supported by the resources available to children in continuous provision. In both nursery and Reception, children have opportunities to perform to audiences.

Key Stage One

Each class has a weekly dedicated music lesson where the children work on developing their musical skills. All children have the opportunity to perform during the Christmas production, in the Key Stage One Music Festival and may also choose to join the School Choir.

Key Stage Two

Dedicated music sessions continue, allowing children to further develop their musical skills. Weekly singing assemblies also continue, although in Key Stage Two this progresses in ways such as singing in parts and playing tuned musical instruments. Performance opportunities in Key Stage Two include the Key Stage Two Music festival, performing at the local church, singing for the elderly in the community and performing in class assemblies each year in every year group.

Impact

Pupils in all key stages engage enthusiastically within their Music lessons. In the Early Years, work to distinguish sounds has the added benefit of helping children to hear individual phonemes as they begin to develop their reading and writing skills. So that we can continue to improve music provision, regular pupil surveys are planned to discover what children most enjoy about music and if there is anything we can change to improve their experience. WE aim to inspire our pupils with a love of music and the arts as they progress through the school so they leave this stage of education seeking to learn and explore more, both in their future learning and wider lives.