



Music Curriculum Overview

The Music units of learning are well sequenced to provide a coherent subject scheme that develops children's skills and knowledge of musical elements, performance and listening and appraising.

All units contain opportunities for children to listen to and appraise pieces of music from different styles and genres. The children also have the chance to improvise and compose, expressing their own individuality or interpreting a particular style.

Throughout key stages 1 and 2, children build up their knowledge and understanding of musical elements and different styles of music. Children are afforded opportunities to work individually, or as groups, and to express themselves freely.

Early Years

This half termly (6-step) focus-based approach supports teachers in engaging all young children with music. It includes a variety of adult-led and child-initiated activities delivered through planning and play. All the musical learning is focussed on nursery rhymes and action songs. Each Unit of Work is supported by weekly lesson plans and assessment and has a cross curricular/topic-based focus and a musical focus that will allow the teachers to engage the children in activities related to the developmental events taking place in their changing lives.

Key Stage 1

Each term, learning is focused around one particular song. The children play musical games to begin to explore pulse, rhythm and pitch. They learn to perform parts of the song using both voices and instruments and also have the opportunity to improvise in different sections of the song.

The children listen to a variety of songs in each unit, all linked to the same genre as the main song. The children freely give their opinions on each song, and begin to think about describing what they can hear. The three focus songs in Key Stage 1 are:

Hey You! – a hip hop song

Zootime – a reggae song

Friendship song – a pop song

Lower Key Stage 2

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In Year 3, the children begin to understand the language of music through learning to play the glockenspiel. Learning is focused around exploring and developing playing skills. This introduces the children to musical notation and develops their learning about pitch and rhythm.

Learning from Key Stage 1 is developed as the children begin to focus on particular musicians. Composition, improvisation and performance skills are developed. Through listening and appraising, children begin to identify particular instruments in a piece of music.

Focus songs in year 3 include: Three Little Birds by Bob Marley, and We Are Family by Sister Sledge.

In Year 4, children further their understanding of musical notation as they complete a follow up unit learning to play the glockenspiel. Children will begin to learn to read musical notation.

The children explore the music of ABBA and enjoy a focus on soul and gospel music. Through these genres, children continue to compose, improvise and learn to play along to popular songs. This builds on the children's understanding of musical notation, particularly pitch and rhythm.

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 begins with a unit exploring Jazz music. The children learn to play two simple pieces, then focus on improvisation, taking previous learning into account and developing skills whilst including their personal style. A rap unit allows the children to write their own rap about a subject of their choice. They explore 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air' theme tune and learn to perform it before using their understanding of rhythm to make up their own. The year finishes with revision of musical elements and appraisal skills.

Year 6 further develops the children's understanding of musical notation. The children use instruments to play along to different songs and explore different ways of writing music. The children also practice singing in harmony and create whole class performances combining voices and instruments. Through listening and appraising, children are expected to identify instruments and comment on pitch, rhythm, tempo and mood created.

Throughout the Charanga scheme, there is complete coverage of all National Curriculum skills and objectives.

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