

How to help your child with Music

Our Music policy explains the importance of music in the curriculum:

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between the home, school and the wider world. The teaching of music develops pupils' ability to listen and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgements about musical quality. It encourages active involvement in different forms of amateur music-making, both individual and communal, thereby developing a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic awareness, sensitivity and fulfilment.

The aims of music and how these contribute to the school's aims

The school aims to:

- Foster pupils' sensitivity to, and their understanding and enjoyment of, music, through an active involvement in listening, performing and composing and appraising;
- Enable all pupils to realise their individual creative potential and to express themselves through music;
- Enable pupils to acquire and develop the musical skills involved in performing, composing, listening and appraising;
- Extend and develop pupils' awareness and understanding of traditions, idioms and music styles from a variety of cultures, times and places;
- Enable pupils to experience fulfilment, which derives from striving for the highest possible artistic and technical standards within any style of musical expression;
- Develop, through music, pupils' skills which contribute to learning across the curriculum;
- Contribute to the community and the school's ethos.

How this translates into our music teaching

The teaching of music is based upon the fact that it is a creative and social art to be enjoyed. Pupils have the opportunity to enjoy musical experiences through composing, performing, listening, singing, movement/dance and by playing a range of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

Learning a musical instrument

All pupils have the opportunity to learn and experience instruments as a whole class throughout the school. We currently teach the djembe drum, mini steel pan, ocarina, recorder and ukulele. Many of these are also offered as an extra-curricular club, not forgetting the 'award winning' singing club which proves very popular!

We employ specialist music teachers who visit the school weekly to teach those who wish to learn a musical instrument. The following instruments are available to learn: flute, clarinet, saxophone, recorder, piano, violin, guitar, tenor horn, cornet and drums. All staff are appropriately CRB checked. Our musical showcase each May is always an entertaining afternoon and enables pupils to see and hear the professionals play. Information concerning hiring instruments is available at www.devonlpd.org. For more information, please see Mrs Totten.

We are proud of our musical achievements and celebrate these during our Christmas shows, Acts of Worship and Summer Festival. Many pupils have also entered musical competitions in the county during the year.

Helpful Music websites:

www.bbc.co.uk › Schools Home › Primary - Ages 4-11 – a list of useful websites for all primary aged children.

charanga.com - Music teaching resources for children, teachers, schools and hubs.

Primarygamesarena.com/Music – Fun musical games for primary aged children.

www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/music - Audio teaching resources for primary music including music activities, childrens songs, music workshops and ideas for school performance.

Creatingmusic.com - Great for KS1

A children's online creative music environment for children of all ages. It's a place for children to compose music, play with musical performance, music games and music puzzles.

vanBasco's Karaoke Player - vanBasco's Karaoke Player plays MIDI Karaoke files. Lyrics can be displayed in full-screen. You can change and recall tempo, volume, and key of a song, and mute or solo instruments.