



Westfield Infant School Spotlight on Music



What is Music and how is it taught?

Music is a foundation subject taught through continuous provision in EYFS and timetabled weekly in Key Stage 1.

At Westfield Infant School, Music is taught through The Kapow Music scheme. The scheme encourages children to develop a life-long love of music. We focus on developing skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to become confident performers, listeners and composers. Children are introduced to music from around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Kapow's scheme of work has clear lesson outcomes and progression which also provides a strong foundation for their Key Stage 2 learning. It follows the 'Spiral curriculum' where children revisit topics, progress in difficulty, and build on prior learning each year. Children work towards reaching the end of key stage attainment targets outlined in the National Curriculum.

Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, composing, listening and responding to music. Through music children develop transferable skills such as team-working, creative thinking, decision making and presentation and performance skills.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

We ensure that lessons can be accessed by all pupils and opportunities to stretch pupils' learning are available when required. Children with SEND and EAL are supported in lessons. Resources used are adapted and modified, as necessary, to ensure that lessons are inclusive in enabling all children to access learning.

Knowledge Organisers for each unit support pupils in building a foundation of factual knowledge by encouraging recall of facts and vocabulary. Knowledge Organisers use symbols and visuals to aid learning. We use vocabulary flash cards in each lesson to reinforce learning and children take a few minutes to record an aspect of their learning using pictures and/or words. This work is put into floor books which are used for recapping learning.

In each lesson pupils benefit from actively participating in musical activities. Lessons are 'hands on' and incorporate movement and dance elements. Lessons use a range of teaching strategies and children often work in pairs or small groups where they support and learn from each other.

As we teach new songs in singing lessons, we incorporate Makaton signs to support retention.

How do we assess the children's knowledge and understanding in this subject?

Children are monitored through both formative and summative assessment opportunities. Each lesson includes guidance to support teachers in assessing pupils against the learning objectives and at the end of each unit there is often a performance element where teachers can make a summative assessment of pupils' learning.

Teachers use questioning and observations throughout lessons to ensure that every child is making progress. This information allows teachers to adapt their lessons as necessary to support all learners. Multiple choice quizzes are used at the end of a unit of work to establish which areas of knowledge the children may need to revisit. We also gather 'Pupil voice' to inform future learning.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

The pupils learning in Music is shared with parents/carers during Pupil Progress evenings where the floor books are available to look at. Parents/carers can also view our Music Progression Overview via the school website.

As well as the scheme of work children take part in weekly singing lessons. The songs learnt are showcased in class assemblies and Christmas performances, to which parent/careers are invited.

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

At the end of the 5-week structured Music lesson units there is a lesson planned to give children further creative opportunities. These have included learning to play a tune on the chime bar and listening to a piece of music and using the music as inspiration for creating a piece of art. We have also invited local musicians into school to share their enthusiasm for their music and work alongside children.

A talented local performance arts company visit the school and give inspiring singing and acting performances followed by workshops for EYFS children. At the end of key Stage 1 Year 2 pupils perform a play, which involves singing and acting for an audience of their families as well as the wider community.

Year 2 children have the opportunity to attend a recorder club where they will learn simple melodies. At the end of each term, children perform to the school and their families. Children have also visited local community groups to play for them.

We are keen to develop our pupils' Music opportunities by encouraging them to learn a musical instrument. From next term peripatetic teachers will be offering music lessons for a range of instruments.