

Northwick Park Primary Academy Music Policy Document
Updated 2017

We, at Northwick Park believe firmly that music education has something to offer all children of all abilities and that therefore our responsibility is to provide an enjoyable, progressive and challenging music education for all children.

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high- quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

(National Curriculum, 2013)

Our aims are to

- Ensure that every child receives and enjoys the music education they are entitled to.
- Promote music to both pupils and parents, as an essential aspect of life, and the curriculum.
- Develop the fundamental musical skills of performing, composing and listening and appraising, through interesting and varied activities.
- Develop an awareness and respect for music from different periods of time and other cultures.
- Develop musical self-esteem in all pupils, through positive reinforcement of achievements and abilities.
- Enable children to work collaboratively and as individuals, developing social skills and respect for one another.
- Provide opportunities for all children to learn an instrument as a class.
- Provide opportunities for individual music tuition by peripatetic teachers.
- Give all children varied performance opportunities and experiences.
- Deliver and promote music as enjoyable

Scheme of Work

The scheme of work for music has been written using national curriculum documents and is mapped across the school to ensure that all year groups receive a high quality music experience throughout the school. Lessons are taught by class teachers, a specialist music teacher and visiting instrumental tutors.

Resources

The school has a well-resourced music room where a wide range of tuned and untuned percussion can be found alongside a class set of keyboards and computers. A wide range of listening resources are also available. We have class sets of clarinets and flutes which enable us to deliver whole class

instrumental tuition to our year 4 pupils. The school owns a number of other instruments that children can borrow to learn with our team of peripatetic teachers and play in the school ensembles. The children are expected to respect and take an active role in caring for the instruments.

Performing

All children

- Are encouraged to regularly perform to each other a classroom situation.
- Are encouraged to share their work in front of a range of audiences including their own or other year groups and assemblies, developing an awareness of audience, venue and occasion.
- Will gain experience of performing through accompanying songs with both taught and created accompaniments.
- Will all have the opportunity to perform in the annual productions and concerts at different stages of their school career.

Singing

All children in school have year group singing sessions and there are opportunities for children in years 5 and 6 to sing outside of these sessions as well. The sessions are led by the Music teacher. The children will have the opportunity to:

- Sing a wide range of songs including rounds, traditional folk songs, modern 'pop' songs and songs from different times in history and other cultures.
- Build upon the work covered by the classroom teacher.
- Practise songs for assemblies and special occasions. Some memorising of the words is encouraged, especially for the shorter songs.
- Listen to each other, improve their diction and produce a generally pleasing sound.
- Improve their ability to sing in tune by singing songs which are within their comfortable vocal range. (Songs are adjusted to this when applicable).

Composing

The children are:

- Given wide experiences to enable them to discover ways of using both sound and silence to express feelings and ideas.
- Encouraged to use tuned and un-tuned instruments, the voice, other body percussion and ICT to produce the effects they require.
- Given the opportunity to produce compositions from a wide range of stimuli including art, poetry, stories, film and other pieces of music.

- Taught to discriminate and use the musical elements of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.
- Taught different methods of recording their work.

Listening and Appraising

Children are broad-minded listeners and we endeavour at all times to feed and nurture this with a varied listening diet.

The children are:

- Provided with a wide range of listening opportunities including live performances.
- Taught to develop the skills to *listen* as opposed to *hear* the music which is played to them and respond to it using appropriate language.
- Encouraged to listen to one another and become active in appraising and improving their own and others work.
- Encouraged, as critics, to be aware of other people's feelings.
- Given opportunities to listen to music from different times and cultures, recognising and appreciating its historical and cultural influences.

Extra Curricular

The school provides a range of activities in music, some of which are open to all children and others which are specifically aimed at those who show potential in music and are learning music outside of the class environment.

Assessment and Monitoring

Formal assessment is on a termly basis and seeks to highlight children who have struggled with the main teaching concepts and those who have progressed further. These are then used as a basis for future planning.

Gifted and Talented

Any children who show an aptitude in music and are working above the expected age expectations are referred to our Gifted and Talented co-ordinator and placed on the school's G&T register.

Signs that children may be gifted or talented in music may be include:

- Singing with expression and consistent good tuning.
- An aptitude for playing a musical instrument.
- Good grasp of rhythm and pulse.
- The ability to memories and repeat passages of music.
- The ability to work out musical tunes by ear.

Children who are on the G&T register for music will be given opportunities in school to develop this talent, which may be being part of school ensembles and having parts written specifically for them. We will also point them towards out of school opportunities, which may be suitable for them.

Conclusion

At Northwick Park music is a rich and vibrant part of school life and we work to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to experience that enrichment.