



Curriculum Overview for Music ~ December 2019

Intent

Children at Birkwood Primary are given a wide range of musical opportunities and experiences - they are inspired and encouraged to build on their skills and appreciation of musical genres, perform regularly and access high quality specialist teaching. Therefore they are developing as musicians throughout their time at Birkwood.

We ensure that all children have access to extra-curricular and instrumental teaching, regardless of social and economic background. Instrumental teaching is provided by specialist teachers from Barnsley Music Hub.

Our music curriculum is thoughtfully tailored to include the disadvantaged, very able and children with additional needs. Children develop performance, appreciation, composition and notation skills quickly throughout school and are exposed to a wide range of aspirational and challenging vocabulary across the key stages. Music provision is regularly reviewed to reflect the needs of children and families within our community. Strong links have developed with the music department at Outwood Shafton and Barnsley Music Hub, ensuring excellent transition and continued opportunities.

Implementation

Our curriculum is delivered through the Charanga Music Scheme. The music appreciation, performance activities, composition opportunities and cross curricular links are engaging, and ensure exciting curriculum coverage and consistent progression throughout school. Regular updates and training are provided to all adults in school.

Music is an integral part of school life - achievements and performances are celebrated in school and in the media.

Children can join our school choir (from Year 1) and brass ensemble (generally from Year 3) - rehearsals take place every week and our musicians are expected to attend all rehearsals. This encourages punctuality, commitment, responsibility, teamwork and aspirations as well as ensuring accelerated progress.

We provide specialist peripatetic music teachers in brass, piano, keyboard, clarinet, flute, guitar and violin. Year 4 children receive class brass lessons weekly and Year 1/2 and Year 2 classes receive weekly class recorder lessons. Class instrumental music lessons show positive outcomes throughout the curriculum as well as building on learning from our music scheme, Charanga. This also creates opportunities for talented musicians to be targeted and children with special educational needs/ emotional barriers / a love of music to access individual music provision. Brass instrument makers, Besson, make regular donations of instruments via Professor Roger Webster to support brass musicians in school. Our school supports the funding of some music lessons and exams, as well as the tuition for brass ensemble, thereby ensuring social inclusion.

Performance opportunities are regular - children are given opportunities to perform within school, in the wider community and even on TV. Soloists, ensembles and bands are welcomed throughout our busy concert seasons. Children have their instrumental lessons in a specialist music room that is equipped with electric piano, keyboards, drum kit, tuned percussion (for Charanga) and practice space.

We have excellent links with the professional musicians at Grimethorpe Colliery Band - this inspires our children and their families as they have respected and positive connections with our ex-mining community. All brass lessons and band rehearsals are expertly delivered by Michael Dodd. He is the principle euphonium player with Grimethorpe Colliery Band, which strengthens our unique partnership with our famous neighbours.

Impact

Many children at Birkwood make outstanding progress in music; this always impacts positively on their academic, social and emotional progress. A lifelong love of learning will equip them with skills and talents that they need to achieve in secondary education, higher and further education and adulthood. We are hugely proud of all the musical opportunities provided for our pupils and community.

Assessment for music takes place twice in the year so that data can inform planning and next steps. Our thorough, varied and exciting curriculum inspires all pupils to be 'the best they can be'.

Summary Outcomes

- To continue to ensure that music is taught and celebrated effectively across school.
- To give teachers confidence in teaching music through enhanced subject knowledge, ensuring consistency and quality across school.
- To ensure class music lessons (Charanga and class brass/ recorder) build on prior learning and skills progression.
- Children's knowledge and abilities are assessed regularly by the music coordinator, teachers and specialist teachers making ongoing observations whilst children are learning.
- Children are encouraged to review and appraise their own performances/ activities so that they become independent learners.
- Twice yearly, foundation subject assessment grids are completed by class teachers (with input and evaluation from the Music Lead).
- Lessons and activities are planned and delivered to include all children by using a wide range of strategies and resources - this includes: questioning, use of resources/ instruments and mixed ability groupings. Lessons are planned to facilitate the best possible outcomes for all children.

Areas for Action

To ensure all elements of the Music National Curriculum continue to be taught throughout school.