

## **Music at Old Park**

Music is led by our Arts Lead

### **Why Do We Teach History?**

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all children:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated

At Old Park, our objective is to provide a high quality musical education that engages and inspires our children to develop a love of music. We strive to ensure that as our children progress through the school, they develop a critical engagement with music and gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, analysing, singing, performing and composing.

Key stage 1

#### **Singing**

Children will begin to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.

#### **Instrumental and composing skills**

Children will play tuned and untuned instruments musically, as well as experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

#### **Appraising skills**

Children will be given the opportunity to explore and explain their own ideas and feelings about music, using music, dance, expressive language and basic musical vocabulary. They will analyse and compare sounds and will become confident at suggesting improvements for their own work and that of others.

#### **Listening and applying knowledge and understanding**

Children will begin to listen with concentration and understanding to a range of live and recorded music. They will learn that time and place can influence the way music is created, performed and heard.

Key stage 2

### **Singing**

Children will be taught to sing a wide ranging variety of songs, and to use their voices expressively and musically with increasing confidence and control.

### **Instrumental and composing skills**

They will explore improvisation and be able to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using both tuned, untuned instruments and keyboards with increasing control. They will rehearse and perform with others, with an awareness of the audience. They will develop an understanding of musical composition and notation, composing, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures for a range of purposes, using the inter-related dimensions of music and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

### **Appraising skills**

Children will be given the opportunity to explore and explain their own ideas and feelings about music, through listening and interpretation using music, dance, expressive language and subject specific vocabulary. Children will be able to appreciate and analyse a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians, developing an understanding of the history of music. They will analyse and compare sounds and will become confident at suggesting improvements for their own work and that of others.

### **Listening and applying knowledge and understanding**

Children will be able to listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music, internalising and recalling sounds with increasing Music Curriculum Statement aural memory. They will begin to develop a growing awareness of the interrelated dimensions of music and be able to recognise the impact of these within their own work. They will know that time and place can influence the way music is created, performed and heard, and apply this in their own work. They will appreciate how music is produced in different ways and is described through invented and standard notations, which will be applied appropriately throughout their musical journey in school.

At Old Park, we are committed to ensuring that children have access to an engaging and fun music curriculum that reflects the world they live in now, but at the same time giving them the opportunity to explore musical styles throughout history. We want our children to develop an appreciation for the subject in its entirety, having a diverse approach to the subject, understanding and accepting the importance of music from across a range of

historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.

### **How Do We Teach Music?**

Our rich, broad and recently updated music curriculum, allows children to sing, listen, compose and perform. This is embedded in the classroom activities, weekly music assemblies, opportunities for brass and string instrumental lessons and the joining of our school choir. Performances take place within various school activities and are integral to the school ethos. Instrumental groups are encouraged to perform in assemblies such as Christmas and YR6 leavers, or whenever performances are ready to be heard.

The fundamental elements of music are taught within weekly classroom based lessons, and children are encouraged to use music specific vocabulary to explore, appreciate and evaluate. Children compose and perform to a wide variety of themes and stimuli, which supports their listening skills when playing or analysing music. Body percussion and vocal sounds are also included in composition, as this develops the understanding of musical elements, without the added complexity of an instrument.

Children have the opportunity to use a wide range of percussion instruments in the classroom as well as keyboards. In doing so, an understanding of the different principles of different instruments is explored. Children have the opportunity to use technology appropriately and progress to the next level of musical excellence. They are taught to understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Wherever possible, creative cross curricular links are embedded to support our children in their learning. At Old Park, we recognise music and singing to be a fantastic tool in it's own right to enhance the learning experiences of our children. We appreciate how elements of lessons, regardless of the subject matter, can be recalled through song. Whether it be singing through the colours of the rainbow, multiplication chants, learning French vocabulary through quirky, catchy melodies or a song to help our children remember key dates in History. Our children and staff are encouraged to promote and recognise singing as a fun, engaging, inclusive and uplifting activity that adds life to any subject or topic.

Our children enjoy termly 'Arts' initiatives and activities. At Old Park we recognise that being creative helps our children cope with their feelings and fears, as well as managing their emotional states. Through 'The Arts' initiative, we support our children and teach them to be independent and think for themselves.

We promote enjoyment and foster interest in music through weekly singing practice, musical assemblies which include song learning and music appreciation, and other extra- curricular

opportunities, such as the school choir. Each year, children are encouraged to participate in external music concerts such as Young Voices and Lichfield Music festival.

Music skills and skills progression are monitored through staff questionnaires and feedback opportunities every half time. Staff are able to comment freely on each scheme of work, detailing successes and what further support they require. Elements are then changed and amended to ensure staff feel confident when delivering music lessons. Child progression and retention is also monitored through child conferences on a termly basis.

## **EYFS**

Children are taught to sing songs, make music and dance. Children are given opportunities to experiment with ways of changing sound and develop an understanding of pulse rhythm and pitch.

Children enjoy listening and responding to different styles of music, learning to sing, joining in with nursery rhymes and action songs which leads to playing classroom instruments and performing for others.

Children are also encouraged to use everyday objects to make music and experiment with sound using objects made from different materials such as wood, metal and plastic.

### **Does Our Music curriculum influence Our children?**

Our varied music curriculum allows children to discover and explore a rich palette, from which they can develop and improve fundamental abilities such as: **optimism**, self-confidence and a **love of learning**. Whilst in school, children are able to discover areas of strength, as well as areas they might like to improve upon.

At Old Park, music is **diverse** and for everyone – giving children a unique motivation to participate and communicate. Through music, our children develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to them individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music in as many ways as they choose – either as listener, creator or performer.

Children learn to **persevere** as they discover and learn new things, improved self-esteem allows children to relish in a sense of accomplishment when performing in front of an audience. Music helps children to develop skills such as: self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection.

For our children to succeed in the future, they will need to be inventive, **ambitious** and resourceful. The opportunities for children to learn an instrument, participate in clubs and perform will build children's confidence, self-esteem and teamwork skills. Our aim is to encourage creativity and expression, so that our children are empowered to shape their world through sound and imagination. Recognising their own skills and appreciating those of

others – developing fundamental life skills such as communication, **responsibility**, commitment and **kindness**.