

Music at Whitehouse Primary School



At Whitehouse Primary School, music is an extremely enjoyable experience for all children. Our aim is to promote a love of music and singing across a broad curriculum as well as embedding the vision that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity.



Music is planned in-line with the statements laid out in the national curriculum and where possible is planned with cross-curricular links. The music scheme Charanga is used to supplement and provide extra support and resources to enhance music teaching. Charanga provides many examples of music styles and genres from different times and places. These are explored through the language of music via active listening, performing and composing activities, which enable understanding of the context and genre. The children develop their understanding of rhythm and pitch and learn how music is structured, as well as learning technical vocabulary for these elements. As confidence builds, the children enjoy the performance aspect of music.



Importantly, we offer our children the knowledge and cultural capital by giving them the experience to listen to a range of music. This includes live music and music from different cultures and eras as well as providing them with the opportunities to learn and play a range of musical instruments.

Our Music Curriculum focuses on children participating in a range of memorable musical experiences such as experiencing and performing with a samba band, a string quartet and a brass group, as well as gaining the

confidence to perform and appreciate the history of music. P

During their time at school, there are many opportunities for children to perform to a range of audiences. Music is a key and important element of school productions. Each year group from Nursery to Year 6, will perform a production to the school and/or parents each year.

During their music lessons, the children develop descriptive language skills, especially when learning about how music can represent different feelings, emotions and narratives. Each year group identifies composers

and pieces of music to explore which helps them to build up a knowledge of the history of music and understand the key features of different genres.

Additional opportunities are offered in music, such as the Key Stage 2 choir which performs in school and at events in the local community and nationally such as in Voice in A Million and Young Voices events.

Peripatetic music lessons are also offered to all children Year 2 and above. In the summer term, these children perform in a concert to their parents to show their progression.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At Whitehouse Primary School the children love learning to explore musically.

They begin by joining in with familiar songs, chants and nursery rhymes.

They start to explore using a range of instruments as well as experimenting with objects making different sounds.



Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, skills are developed by building on EYFS knowledge of exploring different sounds. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions as well as learning to identify the beat, pulse and rhythm of pieces of music. From KS1, peripatetic teachers come into school and teach individual instruments to those children who wish to learn them.

Lower Key Stage 2

Building on their knowledge learned in KS1, in lower KS2, children start to create a longer composition that has a recognisable structure – beginning, middle and end. The children will also begin to learn simple notation including crotchets and crotchet rests. At the beginning of KS2 is when the children begin to learn some composers from different eras.



Upper Key Stage 2

In Upper Key Stage 2, children are able to bring together all of the musical skills that they have learned over their time at Whitehouse, to develop performances of a range of musical genres. Children will also be able to compare a range of musical composers including those of black minority backgrounds and ones who influenced music.

Impact

As children progress through Whitehouse Primary School, they become more confident musicians who can use music as a way to communicate and express themselves as individuals. Children will participate in wider musical activities in both KS1 and KS2 and will have the opportunity to foster their instrumental flare. By the end of KS2, children will have a heightened awareness of varied music genres due to a wide range of opportunities experienced during their time at Whitehouse. They will also gain the memorable and exciting experience of performing to wider audiences. Running alongside all of the taught musical skills and knowledge, a key element is the child's enjoyment of music. Children will be able to enjoy music, in as many ways as they choose – as listeners, creators and performers.

“Music can change the world” Beethoven.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything” Plato.