

The Intent, Implementation and Impact of our Curriculum – Music



Intent

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

- 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 Bolton Brow, our intention is that children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music. They will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural context of the music that they listen to and learn how music can be written down. Our music curriculum aims to help children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

Implementation

Our music curriculum aims to engage and inspire pupils to develop and instil a life-long love for music, develop their talent as musicians and in turn increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. In the Early Years, music is at the heart of learning and a near constant. Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. We aim to spark children's initial curiosity and enthusiasm for music through body percussion, listening and responding skills, instrumental sounds and identification, rhythm and beat.

Pupils in Reception, KS1 and KS2 are taught music using the 'Kapow Primary' scheme. By using this comprehensive, high-quality scheme, we are able to embed a clear progression of skills and knowledge into our curriculum to be built upon year on year. Kapow follows the spiral curriculum model where previous skills and knowledge are returned to frequently and built upon.

Every other term, children will be taught how to sing fluently, expressively and play tuned and untuned instruments with increasing accuracy and control. Knowledge organisers for each termly unit support pupils in building a foundation of factual knowledge by encouraging recall of key facts and musical vocabulary. They will learn to recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music - pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, structure, texture and dynamics - and use these expressively in their own improvisations and compositions.

Each lesson is 'hands-on' with elements of dance and movement as well as cross curricular links to our history and geography topics where possible. Children undertake a variety of independent tasks, paired and group work - this approach ensures learning is accessible by all pupils and there are also opportunities to stretch our most able learners.

In addition to Kapow, there are many other opportunities for pupils to be actively involved in music. Our Bolton Brow Band was recently established, in which children can learn to play guitars, keyboard or drums or be a vocalist. Our School Choir has always been hugely popular and well-attended. We have been actively involved in many events throughout the community; including annual performances at The Piece Hall and The Big Sing, a collaborative project raising money for refugees, performing for residents at Hanover House and last but not least, our annual Christmas Carol Service at Christ Church which is always truly magical and memorable.

Impact

The impact of our music curriculum is continuously monitored through both formative and summative assessment opportunities. Pupils are assessed against the learning objectives at the end of each lesson and a summative assessment of pupils' learning is made at the end of the unit through a musical performance and quizzes.

We will measure and monitor the impact of our music curriculum through:

- Teacher assessment (formative and summative)
- Videos of class work uploaded on Shared Google Drive
- Photographic evidence uploaded on Shared Google Drive
- Pupil voice - interviews about their learning
- Monitoring and moderation against subject-specific skills and knowledge defined in each year of study.

The expected impact of our music curriculum is that all pupils will leave Bolton Brow equipped with a range of skills to enable them to succeed in their secondary education and to be able to enjoy and appreciate music throughout their lives.

"There is music in each and every child, the teacher's job is to find it and nurture it". - Frances Clark