



Music

“The whole and wholesome development of each child in a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment”

Together we grow and learn

May Bank Infants School Music Curriculum Intent Statement

Intent

The Music curriculum at May Bank ensures that every child has access to a broad, balanced and enhanced curriculum which supports the culture, climate and values of the school. Our curriculum is accessible to all children in our school. The development of personal, social and emotional skills underpins our Music curriculum and supports the development of the whole child.

At May Bank, the aim is to develop a love of music and singing and to build a musical curriculum which promotes learning and results in the acquisition of knowledge and improved wellbeing. We nurture positive mental and physical wellbeing and give children the opportunities to understand themselves as learners and to persevere and become resilient over time. Through our music curriculum, the children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children and develop their understanding of different types of music and how music connects people and links to important moments in our lives. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts. We also strive to equip our children with the tools they need to talk about music confidently through teaching technical vocabulary and encouraging children to discuss music using these terms themselves.

We are committed to developing a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We aim to provide children with the opportunity to progress to the next level of their creative journey.

Implementation

At May Bank we deliver music following the Charanga programme, which is designed specifically for the teaching of music in primary schools and ensures that the requirements for the National Curriculum for Music as well as the musical goals of the EYFS for Being Imaginative and Expressive are fully met. The music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the daily singing in assemblies, various concerts and performances and the learning of instruments, notably percussion, glockenspiels and ocarinas.

Through the musical program Charanga, teachers are able to produce inclusive lessons for all children to access the musical curriculum in a fun and engaging way, further promoting a love of learning.

Charanga lessons are planned in sequences to provide children with the opportunities to review, remember, deepen and apply their understanding. The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom children learn how to play the glockenspiel (in Year 1) and the ocarina (in Year 2) and a variety of percussion instruments. Playing various instruments enables children to use a range of methods to create notes, as well as how to read basic music notation. They also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument. Children are explicitly We explicitly teach musical vocabulary in order to equip our children with the tools they need to talk about music confidently through teaching technical vocabulary such as volume, pitch, beat and rhythm and which the children are then encouraged and expected to use themselves when discussing music.

We further enrich our music curriculum by giving our children the opportunity to watch live music performances by inviting musicians to visit and perform in school, such as the Key Strings educational music group. We also take part in singing concerts a local theatre and children also have the opportunity to visit Highfield Grange, a local residential home for the elderly. Children also have the opportunity to take our Year 2 children to visit a local theatre where they are able to experience music being performed and appreciate its role in helping to bring a story to life. The children are also able to join our school choir to continue to develop their love and skills in singing and our Christmas concerts and class assemblies always have a strong emphasis on music and singing.

Music attainment is monitored every term to ensure progress. It is monitored to ensure that children will achieve age related expectations in music at the end of their cohort year, that children will retain knowledge that is pertinent to music, and that they will have the opportunity to foster their instrumental flare and use this as a form of expression. External interests and talents are also encouraged and showcased in class and assembly, ensuring that everyone is challenged regardless of previous musical experience.

Teachers ensure progression in Music throughout Key Stage One by using a subject progression grid which is updated every term to show progress. This is used to track progress throughout the year and analysed at regular intervals to ensure that children are making at least expected progress in Music.

Impact

Children at May Bank enjoy music in many different ways – as a listener, creator or performer. They take part eagerly in music lessons and activities and sing with enthusiasm in performances.

Our well-planned curriculum, alongside our skills progression grids, results in the children make good progress with their Music development from their own individual starting points. As a consequence of this, by the end of their time at May Bank the vast majority of our children have met the requirements of the National Curriculum objectives in Music and are well prepared for their future learning at their next school. As a result of our strong provision our children:

- Can dissect music and comprehend its parts using musical vocabulary with increasing accuracy and confidence.
- Can sing a wide variety of songs and styles, feel a musical pulse and play some tuned and untuned instruments.
- Have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives.

The children are able to confidently discuss and share their own thoughts, opinions and ideas, acknowledging and respecting that these may vary and that this is positive. They are able to reflect on their own performances as part of their journey to becoming confident and skilled musicians. Our music curriculum also supports children to develop a greater understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as different ethnicities from across the world.

At May Bank Infants School, because children are provided with opportunities beyond the National Curriculum to further and support their understanding and this helps contribute to them becoming enthusiastic budding musicians and importantly to the children seeing themselves as musicians.

‘Education isn’t just about feeding the brain. Art and music feed the heart and soul too.’

Julia Garwood

‘Where words fail, music speaks’

Hans Christian Andersen