



Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Music Policy

Reviewed: January 2021

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Music Intent

At Abingdon Primary School, it is our intent that we make music an enjoyable learning experience. Through the effective teaching and learning of the knowledge, skills and understanding in music we will maintain and stimulate pupil curiosity, interest and enjoyment. Our teaching focuses on the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs children learn about the structure and organisation of music. At Abingdon we believe that it is important to provide a cultural outlook for our children, therefore we teach them to listen to and appreciate different styles of music.

As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. Also, we teach the children how to work with others to compose music and perform for an audience.

Our aims are to:

- fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music,
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum,
- ensure the progressive development of knowledge and skills,
- confidently perform by singing either solo or as part of a group,
- enjoy and have an appreciation for different styles of music,
- describe music using a wide range of musical vocabulary to accurately describe and appraise

Our main priority at Abingdon Primary School is to teach and perfect the skills implemented by the National Curriculum for Music. It is intended to provide greater clarity and flexibility, allowing for the development and progression in learning. A lot of our music scheme of work is Charanga which complements the curriculum and scaffolds the learning opportunities throughout the Key Stages.

Implementation

At Abingdon our music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom through the structured music programme Charanga as well as the weekly singing assemblies in class, stand alone music lessons linked to the Creative Curriculum and musical clubs like 'The School Choir'. Music should be taught for at least half an hour once a week.

Through the musical programme Charanga, teachers are able to produce inclusive lessons for all children to access in a fun and engaging way, further promoting a love for learning and an appreciation for different styles of music. Teachers deliver music by following the Charanga programme, designed specifically for the teaching of music in Primary schools. Charanga lessons are planned in sequences to provide children with the opportunities to review, remember, deepen and apply their understanding of music.

The elements of music are taught through 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 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 notation in Years 5 and 6.

The children at Abingdon 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.

Impact

Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows them to discover areas of strength, as well as areas they might like to improve upon. The teaching of music through Charanga creates an enormously rich palette from which a child may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection.

Music enables children to develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. The children at Abingdon are able to enjoy music in as many ways as they choose – either as a listener, creator or performer. Children have the opportunity to discuss and share their own thoughts, opinions and ideas about specific styles of music, acknowledging and respecting the opinions of their peers.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Pupil voice interviews about music lessons.
- Teacher observations to monitor the teaching of music to a high standard.
- Assessing children's understanding of topic linked vocabulary before and after the unit has been taught.
- Images and videos of the children's practical learning.
- Informal teacher assessment through pupil observations in lessons.

