

Music Intent, Implementation & Impact

Curriculum Intent

At Heatherlands Primary School, it is our intent that we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to understand rhythm and follow a beat. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. Children develop descriptive language skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent different feelings, emotions and narratives. We also teach technical vocabulary such as volume, pitch, beat and rhythm and encourage children to discuss music using these terms.

Curriculum Implementation

Our children learn that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. They are inspired and engaged by music education. Music lessons will engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and develop their talent as musicians, and in turn increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

For EYFS and KS1 we use the 'Kodaly/Dalcroze eurythmics' approach and ensure that the lessons are planned with reference to the expectations set in the "Expressive Arts" area of learning (including other aspects in areas of learning) and in the National Curriculum.

In KS2 we also make use of 'Charanga' as a scheme. Lessons are planned, when possible, to link with the Theme Learning topics in class. This enhances the children's overall understanding of the theme and makes their musical learning more meaningful.

The school is continuing to develop whole class ensemble and enrichment of instrument experiences. The younger children learn to play a range of percussion instruments, whereas as they continue their music journey the children will experience, learn and play the recorder, glockenspiel and ukulele. These lessons incorporate teaching musical notation, singing, as well as learning to play an instrument. Opportunities are taken to perform in class, in whole assemblies and also to parents and the wider community.

Additional opportunities are offered in music, by Peripatetic teachers and the school choir, which perform regularly in school and at events in the local community.

Curriculum Impact

Music assessment is ongoing to inform teachers with their planning, lesson activities and differentiation. Summative assessment is completed at the end of each unit to inform leaders of the improvements or skills that still need to be embedded. Music is monitored throughout all year groups using a variety of strategies such as lesson observations, pupil interviews and recordings.