



Curriculum Statement

Music

Intent

“I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.” Plato

At Bradfield C.E. Primary School, the purpose of music is to enable the children to develop an appreciation and curiosity of music through listening to a variety of music from different historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres, developing their understanding of the wider world and its diverse nature. We develop their skills offering opportunities to sing, perform and compose in line with the expectations laid down in the National Curriculum. The integral nature of music enables learners to develop life skills such as self-confidence, team work and self-reflection. Furthermore, we aim to enable children to feel and express their emotions through their experiences. Music, being part of the creative arts, supports the development of children’s mental wellbeing and the making of human connections with others.

Implementation

National Curriculum coverage is ensured through the use of the nationally recognised scheme Charanga, a music scheme also championed by Berkshire Maestros. The scheme is progressive and has a structure that encompasses the key knowledge and skill requirements of the National Curriculum. Units of work cover the main strands of listening and appraising, composing and performing. The curriculum offers a diverse range of music from different genres, times, places, and cultures. Learning in this scheme is built around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music and taught in cyclical nature which enables prior learning to be build upon and developed. In addition to this provision is made for staff to adapt or further challenge pupils within their lessons according to the skills of their class.

High quality musical experiences are supported and delivered by Maestros staff each year through their In2Music programme.

Music is embedded through other opportunities the school offers. This includes: the school choir which takes part in the county music festival each year; whole school singing performances such as at the Christmas service, Mother’s Day tea and key stage productions. Pupils can also receive privately funded lessons that are supported in school through Berkshire Maestros. Disadvantaged children are encouraged to participate in individual or group lessons funded in part by the school. In assemblies, children regularly sing and are taught how to sing in a weekly whole school session.

Pupil conferencing and learning walks are used to assess how we can further develop provision as well as identifying impact. Due to the nature of this subject teachers record performances and compositions, these can also form part of the pupil’s own reflection on their learning. We hope to develop a relationship with Bradfield College giving pupils further opportunities to listen to live music and perform alongside a wider community.

Impact

Pupils are enthusiastic about their lessons and when observed are seen to be very engaged in their learning. Pupils can talk about their lessons and the range of music they have listened to. Staff are working together to further increase their confidence when using technical vocabulary during lessons and develop the children’s understanding of this.

Throughout the last year, following the lifting of COVID restrictions, our children have been able to perform together, all children taking part in at least two performances during the school year. They show a good sense of pulse and understanding of pitch, building more confidence in their abilities to perform as part of a group.