

Intent

At Willowbrook, it is our intent that we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We want the music lessons to be fun and inspiring and to encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. We aim to provide a high-quality music education that engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and nurtures their talent as musicians. Children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, improvising and composing across a variety of historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres. Pupils will understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations. We want the children to develop their own appreciation of music with the opportunities we provide as a school. All children are actively encouraged to learn to play a musical instrument, from standard classroom instruments to individual instrumental lessons with the visiting peripatetic staff.

Implementation

At Willowbrook, the music curriculum is taught by class teachers using the Charanga scheme created by Essex Music Services. Charanga offers a topic-based approach to support children's learning in music. A steady progression plan has been built into Charanga, both within each year and from one year to the next, ensuring consistent musical development. By using Charanga as the basis of a scheme of work, we can ensure that we are fulfilling the aims for musical learning stated in the National Curriculum.

Charanga includes many examples of music styles and genres from different times and places. These are explored through the language of music via active listening, performing, improvising and composing activities, which enable understanding of the context and genre. Charanga provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole-body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

Musical opportunities in school include:

- Class music lessons
- Singing Assemblies
- Class assemblies
- Fabulous Finishes
- School shows (Christmas nativity, year 3 & 4 show, year 5 & 6 show)
- Extra-curricular clubs, for example, choir
- Whole class instrumental lessons for a term in year 4 provided by Essex Music Services through their 'Wider Opportunities' initiative.
- Peripatetic lessons for the piano through Essex Music Services and to be in a band through RockSteady.
- Music assemblies where children having peripatetic lessons have an opportunity to perform.
- Music workshops led by visiting musicians.
- Themed Days for example, World Music Day.

- Visits in the local area to perform, for example, Light Up Shenfield.

Impact

As music is a practical subject, assessment is carried out by observing the children and discussing their work against criteria from the National Curriculum and end of year expectations.

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

- Discussions with pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Observing children within the lessons against the planned outcomes.
- Annual reporting.
- Photographic evidence and images of the pupils' practical learning.
- Recordings of performances.
- The uptake of peripatetic lessons and attendance to extra-curricular clubs.

Children are assessed according to age-related expectations in line with curriculum requirements using Target Tracker. This is carried out inline with the school assessment calendar. This information is monitored by the co-ordinator through a variety of strategies such as lesson observations, pupil voice and data analysis.