Mendlesham Primary School

Music

Intent

At Mendlesham Primary School, we believe that music is a powerful and universal form of communication that enriches children's lives, develops creativity and strengthens a sense of belonging. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and pupils within Mulberry, access an ambitious music curriculum that enables them to develop as confident musicians and performers. Through music, children develop confidence, communication skills, self-expression, resilience and teamwork whilst gaining an appreciation of a wide range of musical traditions, cultures and genres. We want every child to experience success in music and develop a lifelong love and appreciation of the subject.

Our music curriculum enables pupils to:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music from a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.
- Develop confidence in singing, performing, composing and improvising.
- Understand how music is created, organised and communicated.
- Learn and apply subject-specific musical vocabulary.
- Develop listening skills and critical appreciation of music.
- Build confidence in expressing ideas, opinions and emotions through music.
- Appreciate the contribution of music to different cultures, communities and traditions.

We recognise the importance of oracy within music. Pupils are encouraged to discuss, evaluate and explain their musical choices using increasingly precise musical vocabulary and developing confidence in communicating their ideas.

Curriculum planning takes account of the school's mixed-age structure, ensuring that musical knowledge, skills and vocabulary are revisited, deepened and connected over time so that pupils make sustained progress regardless of the point at which they enter the cycle.

Implementation

We ensure that sufficient curriculum time is given to music to enable all pupils to meet age-related expectations and develop as musicians.

Music planning follows the Kapow scheme using a spiral curriculum approach, ensuring that key knowledge, skills and concepts are revisited and developed over time. The Music Leader oversees the implementation and development of the music curriculum, ensuring progression across mixed-age classes and full curriculum coverage.

Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Listen to and appraise a wide range of music.
- Sing with increasing confidence and accuracy.
- Compose and improvise using a range of musical elements.
- Perform individually and collaboratively.
- Develop understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture and notation.
- Explore music from different cultures, traditions and historical periods.

Musical vocabulary is explicitly taught, modelled and revisited throughout the curriculum. Pupils are regularly encouraged to discuss performances, explain their thinking, evaluate music and communicate their ideas using appropriate musical language. Singing, discussion, performance and listening opportunities help children develop both musical understanding and confidence as communicators.

To further enhance musicianship and creativity, children take part in weekly singing assemblies, performances, visiting workshops and live musical experiences throughout the year.

As part of the government's Model Music Curriculum, the Suffolk Music Service provides whole-class ensemble teaching for Years 3 and 4. This enables every child to learn a musical instrument and develop ensemble skills. Pupils then have the opportunity to continue instrumental learning through the Play On scheme.

Adaptive teaching ensures that all pupils can access and achieve within the music curriculum. Appropriate support, modelling and scaffolds are used where needed to remove barriers whilst maintaining ambition and high expectations for all learners.

Impact

By the time pupils leave Mendlesham Primary School, they will:

- Sing and perform with increasing confidence and accuracy.
- Listen to and appraise music thoughtfully using appropriate musical vocabulary.
- Compose and improvise using a range of musical elements.

- Understand music from different times, places, cultures and traditions.
- Demonstrate creativity, confidence and self-expression through music.
- Develop resilience through rehearsal, performance and refinement.
- Appreciate the role music plays within communities and society.
- Participate confidently in musical opportunities both individually and collaboratively.

Pupil voice will demonstrate enjoyment of music and an appreciation of its value within their lives. Children will be able to discuss their learning using appropriate musical vocabulary and explain how music from different cultures, traditions and historical periods has influenced their understanding.

Through performances, singing opportunities, whole-class instrumental teaching, enrichment activities and wider musical experiences, pupils develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music.

The impact of our music provision is monitored through pupil voice, performances, assessments, lesson visits and ongoing curriculum review. Through these processes, we ensure children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to continue their musical journey beyond primary school.