



Intent

At Newlands Junior School, we aim to engage, motivate and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and confidence in their own abilities as musicians with the aspiration of increasing their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

The teaching of music at Newlands has been developed to follow the aims of the National Curriculum for Music ensuring the development of musical concepts, knowledge and skills. We recognise it can be a highly academic and demanding subject, but we are aware of the role it can play in giving pupils opportunities for creative and enjoyable activities. There is an ethos that emphasises music as a collaborative effort: from singing together in assemblies, special presentations and performances to learning instruments and creating sound in the classroom. At every step we strive to instil in pupils to set aside the anxiety of getting things right or wrong and simply enjoy their music making.

Music is to be planned with cross-curricular links where possible. Charanga will be used to supplement and provide extra support and resources to enhance music teaching. In addition, music is to be used in daily school life. For example, meditative music is used as children enter classrooms for registration. At the start and end of assemblies there is a weekly focus piece of music which is widely varied. The children are encouraged to reflect on the music.

Implementation

Through our music lessons children are actively involved in a wide range of musical opportunities. Children develop 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.

Singing is given a specific focus in weekly singing assemblies. Here pupils are given the opportunity to sing songs from a variety of genres and eras. Pupils are also taught techniques to improve their singing e.g. posture, correct breathing etc. The inter related dimensions of music vocabulary are used frequently in order for children assimilate over time.

During music lessons children will be given opportunities to learn music specific vocabulary in a meaningful context. During the lesson children will be given opportunities to apply skill and given chance for collaboration through composition. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in Young Voices and the school choir has sung at various places and events in the local community.

As music is a practical subject, assessment may be done by focussing on a small group at a time on certain tasks or skills, observing the children, discussing their work or self/group/teacher evaluation against criteria from the National Curriculum programmes of study and end of year expectations.

Impact

Progress within our music curriculum is demonstrated through outcomes and the record of coverage in the process of achieving these outcomes. A variety of evidence for these outcomes can be seen published in children's topic books, on big sheets, photographs and on the school website.

Music is monitored by the subject leader throughout all year groups using a variety of strategies such as, lesson observations, staff discussions and pupil interviews.