

Music at Offenham CE First School



Our intention

At Offenham CE First 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.

Aims:

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- 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.

Implementation

We use the Charanga scheme of work from Year Reception – Year five to ensure a wide exposure to different genres of music, with lots of practical opportunities to explore and develop as musicians and singers.

The school has whole class ensemble teaching in Years three, four and five where children are taught a specific musical instrument for a school year. In Year three, the pupils are learning recorder, whereas in Year four, children are taught the fife, with Year five children learning the cornet. These lessons incorporate teaching musical notation, singing, as well as learning to play an instrument. Follow on group music lessons are also available to pupils to continue to develop their skills and ability on a musical instrument the following year. Individual piano lessons are offered at school.

There are opportunities to perform in class, in a termly musical showcase concert, within our community, as well as in our Eisteddfod competition which takes place every other year.

Additional opportunities are offered in music, such as extra-curricular music ensembles – KS1 and KS2, as well as a Young Voices choir and a regular choir which performs regularly in school and at events in the local community. We also work with i-sing-pop every other year to create a CD.