

Music – Intent, Implementation, Impact

Intent

The national curriculum states: Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Music is highly valued at Sutton on the Forest CE Primary School. We believe that all children should have access to high-quality music education and have opportunities to develop their own musical potential. Music makes a key contribution to children’s personal, social and emotional development and to their growth as confident individuals capable of developing their ‘own voice’.

We want all children to develop the self-confidence, skills, knowledge, and understanding to develop a lifelong love of music, whilst also providing a secure foundation that enables them to take music further should they wish to. We also want teachers to enjoy teaching music and to feel empowered, armed with good subject knowledge and practical music making activity, and confident that what they are teaching will work brilliantly with the children in front of them.

Implementation

At Sutton, we use ‘Sing Up Music’ as part of our curriculum offer. This is a scheme that is designed and written by subject specialists and it sets out the skills, knowledge, and understanding to be gained by all pupils at each stage of learning, including the Early Years Foundation Stage. Together, the 80+ units (for Nursery to Year 6) represent a complete and progressive library of resources that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music, the suggested approaches of the Model Music Curriculum, as well as the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage and Music Development Matters.

We use a two-year programme, for mixed-age teaching. This programme for mixed-age teaching is organised into four phases: EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2, and Upper KS2. Within each phase there is a 2-year programme (Year A and Year B), which has been devised to cover the expectations of the National Curriculum for Music and the Model Music Curriculum.

Each phase is organised into 6 lesson and 3 lesson blocks, with the equivalent of 12 weeks teaching each term. Within these blocks are ‘Progression snapshot’ activity units, included for mixed-age teaching, to assess progress and identify gaps in learning. Over the course of each phase, children will cover the appropriate musical learning, revision of concepts, repetition, and the regular practising of skills that are essential for effective musical learning. As regular practice is an important factor in the success of any musical learning, we use the Sing Up songs as a focus for our whole school weekly singing assembly.

Throughout a child’s music education at Sutton, they will be able to...

- Listen and watch a range of musical performances such as live performances from local musicians, concerts and our own pupils performing.
- Appraise and respond to a range of music.
- Sing a wide range of traditional and contemporary songs from Britain and around the world.
- Play instruments that are tuned and untuned.
- Compose music using symbols and music notation.
- Perform in groups, classes or specialised focused groups.
- History of Music – Gain a knowledge of composers – famous and new.

- Explore culture – Explore different traditions, composers and musicians across a range of genres and styles. This promotes, celebrates and shares our unique cultural diversity.
- Use technology to enhance music provision.

Instrumental Lessons

Peripatetic teachers (visiting music specialists) offer private instrumental lessons: violin clarinet flute piano guitar (classical and electric) drums, vocals. Details of providers and instrument tuition can be found on the school website.

Resources

In support of our policy aims, we believe children should have as wide a range of sounds to explore as possible. Thus, we aim to maintain a comprehensive set of tuned and untuned percussion, keyboards and recorded music.

Choir

The choir is open to children in KS2. Singers meet once a week on Friday and perform regularly at school events.

Impact

- The impact of music teaching at Sutton can be seen in the confidence children gain by participating in the subject. Children are happy learners within Music. During their time here children gain wider audience performance experience; every child will have performed regularly, worked in groups and individually, and composed their own work. These experiences greatly benefit their self-esteem, well-being and confidence and contribute to their ability to communicate with a range of audiences.
- By the end of Year 6, all pupils will have performed on a number of occasions and have a grasp of how to read and record music, with some pupils able to read music fluently.
- Children participate in wider musical activities, many take an active musical role in the school and wider community, preparing them to make the most of opportunities in the next stage of their education.
- Children will have an appreciation of a variety of types of music and have an understanding of how music has developed through history.
- Clear outcomes focus and guide all music development plans and drive improvement.
- Fundamental British Values are evident in Music and children understand how Music can celebrate difference.
- Children have the opportunity to foster their instrumental talent and use this as a form of expression.
- Children have heightened awareness of musical opportunities available in and outside of school in the hope that access will be increased.