

MUSIC

Intent

Every child – regardless of gender, ability or background – will be able to play a musical instrument, sing in parts and read from notation by the time they leave Handforth Grange. They receive specialist teaching that provides knowledge on the fundamental building blocks of music, develops their understanding of a range of musical forms, and fosters their creativity as music makers and performers.

Implementation

EYFS

In EYFS, Music is incorporated into the area of learning entitled Expressive Arts and Design. Children will be given the opportunity to explore and talk about music through singing and dance, exploring musical concepts such as pitch and volume. They will be exposed to music from around the world and are provided with opportunities to use their voice, body and instruments to create and perform pieces. Children will listen to and discuss musical pieces and increasingly match the pitch and follow the melody of songs. Children are able to explore music in the EYFS environment and in group music sessions.

Year 1-6

- The school has an extensive provision for music which meets the objectives laid out in the National Curriculum 2014 through sequences which focus on three core areas: performing (with instruments and singing), listening and appraising, and composition. It also aligns with the expectations, progression and content suggestions in the Model Music Curriculum 2021.
- In Years 1-4, each of the three core areas are given specific focus across the three terms of the year, with the Autumn term focussing on performance, the Spring term focussing on listening, and the Summer term focussing on composition.
- Within this three-pronged structure, each term still recaps, relates to and builds upon the skills and knowledge developed previously, as well as seeking to make cross-curricular links wherever possible. Attention is also given to exposing children to music from a wide range of genres, eras and traditions.
- Singing is taught across the school in all year groups – this is the primary manner in which music is delivered in EYFS – with progressively more complex forms introduced as children move up the school, working towards singing in harmony in Year 6. Singing also takes place in whole school or key stage assemblies at least once per week.
- In EYFS, children are encouraged to explore the sounds that different instruments make and take part in playing these along with songs. Performance teaching in Year 1 and 2 centres on playing percussion instruments. This progresses to playing glockenspiel and recorder in Year 3 and 4, requiring more dexterity and understanding of musical notation. By the time they are in Year 5 and 6, pupils receive their full musical curriculum through learning a brass instrument from a brass specialist and follow the curriculum of the Love Music Trust (aligned to the National Curriculum 2014).
- In their listening and composing units, children are introduced to key forms and genres, musical vocabulary, and influential composers and works from a range of different backgrounds and traditions. Learning is recapped and extended with each year to ensure a knowledge-rich and progressive programme of study that seeks to produce well-rounded musicians.
- Music is assessed regularly through both formative and summative assessment to monitor children's progress against curriculum objectives and identify gaps or misconceptions; these are

then addressed in the final lesson of each term.

- Teaching of music in Years 1-6 is carried out by delivered by music specialists who have studied Music to at least degree level and who are active, semi-professional performers in their own right.
- Children with SEND, including those who are non-verbal, are able to participate in class music lessons, with provision and adjustments made where necessary to enable them to access musical instruments (i.e. a prop or plastic trumpet for those less able to hold one).
- The school is recognised regionally for its music education and has an award winning choir. Children are also offered additional, individual or small group lessons with private music tutors, ranging from piano and guitar tuition to rock band sessions. We make a concerted effort to ensure that Pupil Premium children are able and encouraged to access these extra-curricular provisions.
- There are many performance opportunities built in to the school year; in addition to the usual festivals of Harvest, Christmas etc., we also have regular music festivals in the summer (e.g. 'Handforth Vibes') and take part in opportunities to perform jointly with other schools where these arise.
- Children also have the opportunity to see and hear live performances from professional musicians, either through school visits, workshops or performance assemblies. In UKS2, we have an annual trip to 'Come and Play with the Halle' orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall.

IMPACT

All children are given opportunities to learn a musical instrument and read music, bridging gaps in cultural capital and opening doors for them in future. They have the chance to express themselves, master skills, gain confidence from performance opportunities and are equipped with the knowledge and vocabulary to discuss and pursue music further in their school careers.