

Music at Exwick Heights Primary School

Intent

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:



- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At Exwick Heights, the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of what

music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

At Exwick Heights, each child from the Foundation Stage to Year 6, is given regular opportunities to express themselves musically and to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence in making music. This comes in many forms, from dedicated lessons, to our involvement with Devon Music's Wider Opportunities program, and many other cross-curricular links in between.

Our usual curriculum ensures that throughout the year children experience a wide range of musical learning in: singing, playing instruments (untuned rhythm instruments such as the tambour, or tuned, such as the ukulele), improvisation, composition of their own songs and transposition of their musical ideas into a written form. We have music specialist teachers in both Key Stage 1 and 2 ensuring all children have opportunities for instrumental lessons. In addition to the timetabled music lessons taught across the school, a team of additional music specialists come into school to give woodwind, keyboard, brass, percussion and strings tuition. Payment for this tuition is made directly to the music specialist. For more information, please contact the school office.

The school choir is a key element of extra-curricular music and performs at external events within our community. With additional events including Christmas song services, Exwick's Got Talent and a summer term concert which showcases our children's love of music, Exwick Heights Primary School is a buzz with sound all year round.

Implementation

The music curriculum ensures students sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the joining of one of our many musical ensembles. The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom children learn how to play an instrument, from all four main instrument groups of wind, strings, percussion and keyboards. In doing so understand the different principle of each method of creating notes, as well as how to read basic music notation. They also learn how to compose focussing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.



Impact

Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows students to discover areas of strength, as well as areas they might like to improve upon. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a student may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to students individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music, in as many ways as they choose- either as listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives.