

Oxford Garden Primary School Music Policy



Aims

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” Plato

Music is a special part of our community here at Oxford Gardens. Every child participates in music for learning and also for fun!

Much of our music making is built upon singing. Research says that singing makes us all happier, healthier and more creative and also promotes skills for life-long learning such as concentration, listening and language. Our aim is for every pupil to sing and perform with confidence and joy!

Our Curriculum

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, Music is taught weekly by the class teacher following a singing programme called Jolly Music. This teaches elements of music such as pitch, pulse and rhythm through songs and games. Classroom percussion instruments are incorporated into the songs and there are also opportunities for children to improvise and create their own musical ideas.

In Key Stage 2, we are continuing our successful new partnership with Ark Schools Music, a specialist singing programme. Margaret from the Ark Music Team visits the school every fortnight and these sessions are followed up weekly by our class teachers. Curriculum materials are provided by Ark Music to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and ensure progression of skills.

As well as music lessons, all children attend a weekly singing assembly. We have a school song ‘The Ship of Adventure’ written with the children, which you can find on our website.

Singing is also used across the curriculum to support learning. In particular, there are songs assigned to each class’s termly topic. Every class also prepares a singing performance both at Christmas and for their annual class assembly.

Extra-curricular opportunities

We also offer several extra-curricular opportunities. Small group instrumental lessons on cello and violin are taught by music tutors each week and we have an inspirational school orchestra which rehearses every Monday afternoon and performs twice a year.

Our non-auditioned school choir is open to young singers in Years 5 and 6 and we practise every Friday afternoon and perform both in school and in the community. Young Music Mentor Abbi Asante from Ark Music supports our choir every week.

Assessment

We assess music each half term through sound and video recordings. These are uploaded onto a sharing platform called ‘padlet’ which can be accessed via iPad through QR codes displayed in each classroom or the interactive whiteboard by the class teacher. The children are given opportunities to reflect on their performances, celebrate their achievements and discuss what they should work on next.

Partnerships

We are a school partner with the tri-borough music hub and regularly take part in their events such as strings days, choir collaborations and teacher professional development days. We are also excited to launch a new partnership with the Royal College of Music who are providing scholarships for individuals, workshops to enhance our curriculum, support for students with dyslexia and free tickets to performances.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

All children must have the encouragement and opportunity to reach their full potential. Our music programme provides opportunities for all. Every child is supported to participate in a wide range of performances and the choir and orchestra are open to all. Scholarships are available to any child wishing to learn cello or violin at Oxford Gardens.

Resources and ICT

Curriculum resources are provided through the Jolly Music scheme of work and by Ark Music. This includes audio files to support teachers in delivering excellent music lessons. Interactive whiteboard and iPads are used regularly in class to enhance learning and to record clips for assessment.

In addition we have a dedicated music room for instrumental lessons, cellos and violins for instrumental pupils, a full PA system for performances and high quality digital pianos for accompanying orchestra and choir.

R Sheppard May 2018
Music Coordinator