

Ouston Primary School

Music Policy



Review Date: April 2026
Next Review date: April 2027

Intent

Our vision for music is that we provide every child with high quality music experiences which will engage and inspire them. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music and to appreciate a variety of music styles. We aim for every child to leave Ouston Primary School with a range of musical skills, knowledge and an understanding and love of music which they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Implementation

At Ouston Primary School, we encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Singing is an integral part of our school life and our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune, developing their expression and ability to listen to others. Pupils' understanding of music will be developed through activities which bring together the requirements of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Children are taught to make music together with tuned and un-tuned instruments and to compose pieces. They are also taught to sing and play in time controlling the sound and pace.

Impact

Children will:

- enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles;
- explore how sounds are made, and how music is produced by a variety of instruments;
- develop imagination and creativity;
- build a sense of pulse and rhythm;
- understand a range of musical vocabulary;
- develop the interrelated skills of composition, improvisation, performance and appreciation;
- enjoy a wide range of songs and sing in tune;
- develop positive attitudes and to experience success and satisfaction in music.

Teaching and Learning

Early Years

We teach music in Nursery and Reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. Counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability, and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. Nursery and Reception classes have access to the Kapow Music Scheme and also use other online resources such as BBC Bring the Noise and BBC Wiggle Waggle.

Key Stage One and Two Curriculum

Our school uses the Kapow scheme as the basis for its curriculum planning. This scheme has an integrated, practical, exploratory and child led approach to musical learning.

The learning within this scheme is based on:

- Listening
- Composing
- Singing and Performing
- The history of music

While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. All musical learning in the scheme is based around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music; pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure, timbre.

Additional music teaching

There is a Key Stage 2 choir which children are encouraged to join.

In order to enrich the musical experiences of all children, our school currently welcomes a range of external providers who work with the different year groups for a number of weekly sessions over the school year. Currently the external providers are:

- Year 5 – Samba Drums
- Year 6 – School of Rock and Pop

In addition, we also have arranged tuition to take place in school from MusicWorks in ukulele, guitar and keyboard. Sessions are offered to all children from Year 2 upwards and take place in small groups. Parents are asked to purchase instruments and pay for these lessons.

Musical events

Children take part in singing practice, assemblies and have opportunities to perform in public, for example groups of children have been invited to sing in the local community and at Durham Cathedral. Children are also given the opportunity to listen to a range of music at the beginning and end of our assemblies. At Christmas time, the whole school takes part in a musical performance of some kind. At other times of the year e.g. Harvest, Easter and class assemblies, year groups or the whole school get together to provide appropriate musical entertainment. There is a brass band concert which takes place in the Summer Term each year for the whole school.

Resources

The following resources are available to aid the teaching of music at Ouston Primary School;

- Kapow music scheme – all teachers and TA's have individual logins
- sound system, laptop and projector in the hall

- a range of musical resources on CD which includes classical, popular and cultural music
- a selection of un-tuned percussion instruments
- tuned instruments – glockenspiels and recorders

Assessment

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Video recordings are made of musical performances and uploaded to The Cloud as evidence of learning. Older and more able pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. The Progression of Skills from the Kapow Scheme enables teachers to assess children as they are observed during lessons and provide feedback. At the end of each term, teachers complete a class Music Assessment Sheet to assess whether children are working below, above or at the expected level.

Equal opportunities

Activities should be carefully planned by the class teacher and be adapted where appropriate for children with SEN and equally so for the more able children. All resources/materials have been reviewed with equal opportunities in mind, e.g. race, gender, ethnicity. Learning experiences in music will be available to every child, regardless of race, gender, class or ability. Pupils will be encouraged to value social and cultural diversity through musical experiences. They will listen to, and participate in, a variety of experiences in a positive and constructive role.

Inclusion

We recognise that, in all classes, children have a wide range of musical ability, and so we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty;
- grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each group;
- grouping children in mixed ability groups;
- providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child;
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Role of the Subject Leader

The coordination and planning of the music curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- keeps colleagues and school governors informed about developments in music;
- discusses progress with the Head Teacher and evaluates strengths and weaknesses in music;
- reviews the success of the Kapow music scheme and reviews evidence of children's work;
- arranges external music providers to work with different year groups.