

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Green Lane Primary and Nursery School



Music Policy

MUSIC POLICY

Rationale

The learning of music provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for pupils. Through music pupils develop the ability to listen critically to a wide variety of musical styles. It enriches, stimulates and encourages co-operation and participation, enabling personal expression, reflection and emotional development as music embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Green Lane we encourage such an appreciation and enjoyment of music by providing opportunities for all children to listen, perform, compose and appraise. Practical first-hand experiences of music-making enable children to work towards excellence in a positive atmosphere of mutual support and sensitivity.

Aims and objectives

- to develop the ability to perform and compose music with understanding using inter-related dimensions of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notation.
- to develop the ability to express ideas and feelings through the medium of sound.
- to make appropriate use of instruments and information technology to create and record music.
- to develop social skills and awareness through making music together.
- to develop the ability to listen to and appraise music from different times and cultures, and in different styles including the works of great composers and musicians.
- to offer pupils opportunities to experience the personal satisfaction and self-confidence derived from striving for the highest possible standards whilst engaged in musical activities.
- to develop the ability to evaluate the work of other composers including themselves and their peers.
- to learn to sing and to use voices to create and compose music as individuals and with peers.

Teaching and learning style

Each child at Green Lane Primary School is given the opportunity to sing and play a variety of tuned and untuned musical instruments and to perform to a range of audiences for different purposes. These will include performing to their own class, the school at assemblies and to parents. Children are guided in the production of simple compositions, which become more complex and detailed as they progress through the school. Simple notations are introduced and the children experiment with these as a means of communicating their musical ideas to others. By the end of year 6, children will learn to use and understand stave and other musical notations.

These are important skills which are introduced to the children through a variety of purposeful activities which will enable them to evaluate, explore and review music that they listen to. Both recorded and live music is presented to the children. This includes a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.

Pupils have opportunities to extend their musical experiences and talents in activities that take place alongside the daily curriculum. There is an infant choir, junior choir and orchestra at Green Lane Primary that performs at a range of occasions during the school year. There is an annual concert in school which celebrates the musical achievements of the children.

Curriculum planning including links with other subjects

Links are made, where relevant, with other areas of the curriculum. Children find out about sound in Science, and use musical ideas, performances and compositions to extend work in Drama, Art and Dance. Where possible, appropriate links are also made with History and Geography.

The Charanga music resource is available to all staff, as well as pupils, to ensure continuity and progression of the National Curriculum throughout the whole school.

Inclusion

Green Lane Primary School aims to provide children with challenging and stimulating musical activities which cater for the whole range of abilities. Music is often taught through practical activities which offer all children the opportunity to contribute and participate. We aim to maximise the children's potential and extend their abilities.

We aim to support and extend the gifted and talented children and accommodate them through a range of extra-curricular activities such as additional music tuition.

At Green Lane Primary we aim to raise children's awareness of music from different cultures. We encourage children to share their own musical backgrounds and to draw upon these in their own composing and performing. We aim to recognise both the common and different elements present in musical traditions and cultures.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Pupil attainment in music is monitored through formative assessment, children are given verbal feedback by peers and teachers on strengths and areas to improve.

Instrumental tuition reports are written by the Kingston Music Services' staff at the end of each year.

Monitoring

It is the role of the music co-ordinator to monitor the teaching of music throughout the school to ensure progression and coverage. This will be through monitoring of medium term planning.

Provisions

All year groups are able to refer to the Charanga music resource for their year group to support their planning.

There are two music trolleys containing most of the instruments used within the school, one is situated in the KS1 corridor and is used for all Foundation Stage / KS1 classes. The other is situated in the music cupboard and is used by all KS2 classes.

In addition to this there is a class set of glockenspiels, 12 keyboards plus a variety of African drums in the music cupboard.

There is a room used specifically for music tuition. Lessons are available, in school, on a voluntary basis for various instruments. Application forms are available from the school office. Administration and tuition of these lessons are through Kingston Music Service.