



Music Intent at Pitmaston

At Pitmaston, we recognise that music is a universal language that embraces creativity and diversity. We believe that Music is for everyone. We instil in our pupils a love and passion for music; there are many opportunities to compose and listen to music responding, evaluating and reviewing with attention to detail. Every individual forms and expresses their own opinions about different pieces of music and musical genres; and we respect the variety of tastes and expressions of music within our school community.

The music curriculum at Pitmaston is progressive, exciting and ambitious from the Early Years to Year 6, following the Early Years Foundation Curriculum and the Programme of Study, developing musical concepts, knowledge and skills. Children have the opportunity to be taught in our purpose built Music room. We believe that music plays an integral role in helping children to feel part of our community, developing their self-confidence through achievements and performances. Children perform across a range of settings including incredible class assemblies linked to the wider curriculum, the annual Christmas Carol Service in the Worcester Cathedral and the Year 6 theatrical production.

We seek to encompass music in all areas of the curriculum to support learning, enabling pupils to 'Enjoy, Aspire and Achieve.' Singing is a pivotal part of our school where children sing with enthusiasm, learn how to play and perform on a minimum of three musical instruments and improvise and compose their own music, both digitally and acoustically. As a Thrive Ambassador school and Trauma Informed School we value the use of music as a therapeutic tool to support everyone's well-being in order to regulate pupils, support with transition and aid relaxation.

Implementation:

At Pitmaston, our Music curriculum is bespoke, based around the Charanga English Model Music Curriculum which ensures that children have opportunities to listen to, perform and develop an appreciation for a wide range of music across diverse periods, genres, styles and traditions. We have enriched this curriculum from the Early Years to Year 6 by offering all our children opportunities not only to play glockenspiel and untuned percussion instruments, but also to learn to play recorder in Years 3 and 4 and ukulele in Years 5 and 6. There are also opportunities to learn other instruments with peripatetic teachers and children are encouraged to bring their instruments to lessons. We have further enhanced our curriculum with opportunities for KS2 children to research and develop their understanding of the history of music.

Within the EYFS, both Pre-School and Reception, music is an integral part of children's learning journey. Rhyme and rhythm are utilised throughout the learning of phonics, handwriting and mathematics. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes and develop skills for performing together. Singing and music making opportunities are used frequently to embed learning, develop musical awareness and to demonstrate how music can be used to express feelings.

Music lessons are broken down into half-termly units and an emphasis is placed on progressive musical vocabulary outlined in the knowledge ladder, allowing children to talk about pieces of music using the correct terminology. Each unit of work has an on-going musical learning focus and lessons usually follow a specific learning sequence:

- Listen and Appraise
- Musical Activities (including pulse and rhythm)
- Singing and Voice
- Playing instruments
- Improvisation / Composition
- Perform and Share

Our curriculum has been designed so that opportunities for retrieval of prior learning are embedded into lessons, using a spiral approach to substantive and disciplinary knowledge and opportunities for retrieval-based questioning, activities and low stake quizzes. This ensures that whilst pupils continue to learn more, they are also remembering more.

At Pitmaston we also recognise that staff have musical abilities that can be utilised to supplement our musical curriculum. Pupils also have the opportunity to join the school choir and orchestra. Pupils in the school choir meet after school and focus on singing in unison, developing harmony, solo performances and having fun! The school choir also have the

opportunity to perform in school performances, carol concerts and have sung at a range of events both in school and at other venues.

Our focus on a Musician of the Month ensures that an appreciation, understanding and love of a diverse range of Music and different traditions from great composers and musicians. These musicians are chosen to celebrate diversity, representing a balance of gender, race, culture and those who have disabilities.

Impact:

Our bespoke Music curriculum ensures that by the time children leave Pitmaston, they have received quality teaching in three instruments; glockenspiel, recorder and ukulele. Children will have learned to appreciate music from a diverse range of musical periods, genres, styles and traditions. They will be able to form and express their own opinions about music, whilst showing our British Values of mutual respect and tolerance. Regular opportunities to perform in various settings develops confidence and resilience in our children. Our spiral approach to skills and knowledge acquisition, along with regular retrieval-based questioning and activities ensures that our pupils will know more, do more and remember more.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Pupil discussions and interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Monitoring and learning walks
- Annual reporting and tracking of standards across the curriculum using our music solo taxonomy
- Photo and video evidence of the pupils' practical learning.
- Dedicated music leader time.

The impact of our music curriculum is also measured in the uptake of our music after school clubs and uptake of additional music 1:1 teaching.

We are proud of our pupils who all leave Pitmaston with a love of Music for life, confident to enjoy and express themselves musically and creatively.