



Intent

Our vision for music at Westlands Primary is that we provide every child with a solid foundation in musical skills and that we seek to build every child's love of music through high quality musical experiences, both within and outside of school.

Learning music develops all aspects of a child's learning; playing an instrument stimulates brain development whilst listening to music can offer huge benefits in terms of mental health and well being. As pupils learn to play and appreciate music, they are offered a way to connect with others and are able to use, apply and develop skills from many other subjects including English, Science and History.

At Westlands Primary we aim to provide every child with high quality music lessons, enrichment activities and opportunities outside school. We endeavour to use musical opportunities to build the cultural capital of our pupils and to raise their aspirations.

We intend that every child leaves Westlands Primary with an understanding and love of music that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives and with brighter prospects for their future.



Implementation

Pupils in Nursery and EYFS explore sounds in many different ways such as playing instruments, singing songs, listening to sounds in the environment and creating sound effects for stories.

Charanga is the schools chosen music platform for EYFS through to Year 6 with our Music Hub delivering tailored instrumental tuition to specific year groups. Piano or Keyboard lessons are offered to children by a peripatetic.

As the children move into Key Stage 1, they use singing as the basis for developing other musical skills. They continue to experiment and explore but also begin to improvise within song structures and are exposed to a wider variety of musical styles, which they discuss as musical vocabulary is introduced.

Throughout Key Stage 2, our pupils explore the history of music, listening to pieces from a range of musical periods and composers. Pupils explore sounds through composition and improvisation tasks, sing and perform, and look at different forms of notation.

We aim to create opportunities for our pupils to experience live music as much as possible, for example, through steel pan workshops.



Inclusive Practice - Bespoke for the subject

When music is taught at Westlands Primary School the aim is to include all children. Pupils are introduced to music in a fun way which is suitable for all using the 'sound before symbol' approach. Musical skills are modelled so that learners can see and hear what they should look and sound like. Musical concepts are introduced through playing or singing activities and then talked about. Graphics are then introduced to develop understanding.

Each lesson begins in the same way to develop an understanding of pulse and rhythm. Learners participate by moving and clapping, playing instruments and singing so that they are fully engaged.

Visual aids are used to identify instruments and music dimensions such as pitch and tempo.

Learning is broken down into small steps to build up conceptual understanding.

Additional adaptations are made to support SEND pupils. Students know in advance what is going to take place in the lessons and are informed if there is going to be a lot of movement or loud noises. They are given visual word banks and are allowed movement breaks when necessary.



Enrichment Activities

Teachers promote a love of music through sharing their enjoyment of singing and engaging with musical experiences in addition to weekly music lessons.

Children engage in singing sessions within their classes and as groups; we come together to sing to celebrate at a number of times over the year, for example, for Harvest and Remembrance.

Enrichment activities promote children's enjoyment of music and opportunities for visiting musicians to provide workshops are planned where possible; children in Key Stage 2 can join the Singing Club who perform to the school and entertain the elderly at Christmas.

To celebrate the successes of children learning instruments within (and outside) school, we hold a 'Summer Showcase' for children to share their talents.



Impact of your curriculum

The impact of our Music curriculum can be seen in children's enjoyment and engagement within lessons, their performances to others, their desire to learn music and enjoyment of musical activities.

Although, we work hard to ensure the progression of skills throughout lessons, year groups and key stages, we also ask that teachers focus on the impact that Music learning has on the pupils' social and emotional wellbeing and the development of their cultural capital. This is achieved through our ongoing assessment of our pupils as learners, their ability to work collaboratively and independently, their perseverance and resilience. The impact of this is seen in all areas of learning and in all areas of school life.



National Curriculum

Music is taught using the Charanga English Model Music Curriculum v2 aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) Guidance published by the DfE in 2021.

This scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson.

The scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.

