

Music and Performing Arts

Our Intent Statement:

At Great Finborough Church Primary School, the arts are considered to be key drivers in pupil learning and development. The creativity and self-expression fostered through our music and performing arts curriculum is integral to the academic, personal, social and emotional growth of our children. The aim of our music curriculum is to give all children the chance to develop a firm foundation of musical knowledge and skills. This secure start can then be built upon as they continue on their educational journey resulting in pupils being able to realise their full musical potential. We aim for children to engage in a wide variety of musical activities and experiences allowing them to appreciate the way music acts as a universal form of communication bringing people together all over the world.

Our Implementation Statement:

Our children participate in a weekly music lessons delivered by our Music Subject Leader as well as classroom teachers where necessary. Throughout KS1 and KS2 musical skills and knowledge are developed through the structured online scheme 'Charanga' which is underpinned by the requirements of the National Curriculum and can be accessed by all staff to ensure continuity. This progressive and engaging scheme teaches the key elements of music in a variety of ways including a regular focus on listening and appraisal, singing and learning to play instruments.

In KS1 children learn a range of songs from different cultures and time periods developing awareness of pulse, rhythm and pitch in particular. This is achieved through fun activities and games incorporating movement so that children can really 'feel' the music. The children play un-tuned percussion instruments, exploring pulse and rhythm as well as the different types of sounds that they make. They then move on to using tuned percussion to play simple accompaniments to familiar songs. Working together to achieve a collaborative performance is always a joy and pupils are encouraged to share their views and opinions in all aspects of music.

In Year 3, 4 and 5 the children begin to apply their skills to learning the recorder and glockenspiel. Alongside extensive opportunities to play, they begin to understand written notation and deepen their awareness of music vocabulary and theory. Composing, performing and evaluation skills now come to the forefront with a focus on developing musicianship, a wider knowledge of the orchestra and the impact of influential composers.

In Year 6, musicality, a wider awareness of key genres and the evolution of music throughout history means that children leave our school with an extensive appreciation for music and its impact. Our year 6 pupils are even given the chance to have individual instrumental lessons (acoustic guitars) as part of their weekly learning.

Using our voices as instruments is a key aspect of music throughout the whole school. Through our regular whole school collective worship, the children sing together with confidence and clarity. This is extended into the community with opportunities to sing in local church services and even at the Cathedral alongside other schools. The school choir allows children to further enhance their singing skills being able to start harmonising and singing different parts alongside others. The choir performs in mini showcases for parents and also at the local care home.

Our annual school musical production is a highlight of the year giving the children the chance to develop their performing arts skills and showcase their musical talents. It brings everyone together to create something really special and it is wonderful to see the increase in confidence and self-esteem in our children as they perform on stage to family, friends and members of the wider school community.

Individual peripatetic guitar, piano and singing lessons are also available for those who wish to enhance their skills further.

Impact Statement:

By the time children leave Great Finborough Primary School they will have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of music in our lives. They will have developed a positive attitude to music and performing arts with some children wanting to take these interests further.

Pupils will be confident with using their voices and have a secure knowledge of the key elements of music and what these key elements mean including pulse, rhythm, tempo, pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration, structure and texture. They will have explored a variety of percussion instruments with the ability to use these to keep the pulse of the music and play rhythms. They will have learnt to play some tuned instruments and be able to read some basic music notation and symbols.

Our children will see themselves as creative composers, be able to express themselves through their musical choices and give opinions about what they have heard. They will create, compose and perform music on their own, as part of a group and as part of the whole school community. Through participation in the school production the children will have experienced auditions, committed to learning scripts and songs, and performed on stage to a diverse audience. The cross curricular links with literacy are also a positive impact of this process.

Music and performing arts at Great Finborough primary school will build confidence and self-esteem in our pupils which will inevitably result in a positive impact on learning, personal development and wellbeing. Ultimately, through this subject, our children will make memories and develop skills which will last a lifetime.