

Subject Leader Report 2023/24 - Music

Music is a valued part of the curriculum at Forefield Junior School. It allows all learners to be creative and express themselves through a form of art, and allows many to flourish and enjoy opportunities to perform and grow in confidence and self-esteem. It is an integral part of our curriculum, and we aim for all children to enjoy and achieve.



The school year 2023-24 included many fantastic performances and opportunities for music across key stage two.



Classes have been continuing to follow the Kapow music scheme, following the condensed programme, which covers all the objectives from the National Curriculum through four topics in each year group. The units of work cover all elements of music, including listening, composing, performing, the history of music and the inter-related dimensions of music. Years 3, 4 and 5 also included instrumental units which are whole-class glockenspiel lessons, where children learn to read and write using standard musical (stave) notation.

At the end of the academic year, class teachers assessed 86% of pupils as working at the expected standard for their age group or above, with 5% of pupils exceeding those expectations.



As part of their Kapow topic learning about West African music, year five enjoyed a music workshop delivered by the Creative Education Group, which was absolutely brilliant and really engaged the children in their musical learning.



Extra-curricular clubs and activities proved as popular as ever at Forefield, with many children taking up the opportunity to learn piano, guitar or drums with the private peripatetic teachers from Musical Minds. The Christmas production was a great success, with a great number of Year 3 and 4 pupils taking part in lunchtime and after school rehearsals to be part of 'A Dancing Christmas Party', culminating in a spectacular performance in front of their parents.



The school choir rehearsed extensively and performed in assemblies for the rest of the school at regular intervals. Once again, we took part in the Sefton schools' Diversity concert held at John Moore's University. The children went for a rehearsal on the day and performed fantastically in the evening as part of a huge celebration of music and performing arts in front of a very appreciative audience!



In the summer term, we showcased the musical talents from across the school: the choir performed brilliantly once more, this time alongside a lower junior choir too, with both choirs combining to perform some joint pieces. The instrumentalists of school had an opportunity to showcase their musical talents, with the recorder group playing, and many of the Musical Minds pupils performing solos and duets that they had been working hard on in their individual and small group lessons.



This year's Arts Week was once again a great success! The activities this year came from Sky Arts and Music and the Performing Arts played a large part in the week's activities. Each year group had a raft of musical experiences to take part in, with specific pieces of music to use for listening and appraising activities, along with the opportunities for singing and playing, composing and evaluating music work alongside the other arts within the wider Arts Week. Dance was incorporated into the week's timetable once again, with links being forged between expressive and performance arts.



Within Arts Week, year five experienced bucket drumming which was a great success and very popular with the children!

The year ended with the Year Six Leavers' Celebration, marking the end of our eldest pupils' time at Forefield by culminating in a celebration of singing, dance and drama, showcasing the talents of our fabulous leaving pupils.



As a school we continue to strive to ensure our Pupil Guarantee aims are achieved, making sure our pupils have regular experiences of the arts, as an audience and as performers, enjoying a range of styles and influences.

PROUD

Passion, Respect, Opportunity, Unique, Determined