



Subject Leader Report 2022/23 - 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 2022-23 saw a return to class teachers teaching the full music curriculum themselves for the first time since before Covid lockdowns, following the Junior Jam scheme of the previous year. We invested in 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 include instrumental units which are whole-class glockenspiel lessons, where children learn to read and write using standard musical (stave) notation. By teaching using this scheme of work for the whole year, consistently across the school, there is a cohesive approach to curriculum music lessons, children are more confident using musical vocabulary in their learning, and teachers are more confident at delivering lessons because the scheme has built-in CPD with training videos for every single lesson that is to be taught, making sure that teachers' subject knowledge is up to date and relevant, and that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to deliver high quality lessons. At the end of the academic year, class teachers assessed 87% of pupils as working at the expected standard for their age group or above, with 7% of pupils exceeding those expectations.



Extra-curricular clubs and activities proved as popular as ever at Forefield, with a strong recorder club who have progressed their way from year three and are now in year five and still committed to weekly rehearsals. 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. Their parents came into school at Christmas and enjoyed a fantastic rendition of a repertoire of Christmas songs, then our attention turned to the Sefton schools' Diversity concert held at Pontins in Ainsdale. A very excited group of 30 children attended the venue for rehearsal then performed on stage in the evening to a paying audience of hundreds - a fabulous opportunity for all involved, and their performance was fantastic.



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 a joint finale. 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 1:1 and small group lessons. These private lessons continue to be a great success and are highly subscribed once again.



In December 2022, Year 5 took a trip to Litherland High School along with pupils from several other local primary schools to experience a live performance from a group of musicians playing a wide variety of styles and genres, giving the children a chance to see and hear live music in all its glory!



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.



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.



Attached is the school action plan for music for the coming year, highlighting the key areas to work on in the subject, which focus this year on ensuring that we maximise opportunities for children to listen, perform, and experience live music in other areas of school life in addition to their curriculum music lessons.

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, Determination

