



PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM AT OAKFIELD ACADEMY

INTENT – IMPLEMENTATION - IMPACT

INTENT

At Oakfield Academy we believe that high-quality Music and Drama lessons will inspire pupils to think innovatively and develop their creative understanding. We believe that the Performing Arts contribute to our pupils' personal development and enable them to express their thoughts and feelings, develop creativity, learn in alternative contexts such as visual, audio and sensory, develop interpersonal skills, build confidence and self-esteem, enable them to become actively involved in shaping their environment as well as develop a greater understanding of the world around them. We aim to give all our pupils a lifelong love, appreciation and understanding of the arts.

MUSIC

Our Music curriculum provides pupils with many opportunities to develop a range of skills through listening (including reviewing and evaluating music), performing in a variety of contexts and composing (this includes music theory and notation). Pupils will learn how to listen with a critical ear, use appropriate music vocabulary, articulate their thoughts and opinions, perform from notation and memory in a variety of genres and contexts as well as compose music for different occasions using a variety of structures and notations. An emphasis is put on exploring, experimenting and evaluating different creative ideas and pupils will be introduced to a range of composers, musical periods in history, genres and cultures. The knowledge and skills they acquire in Music are regularly linked/applied to other areas of the curriculum, for example, through studying the slave trade and Jamaican culture in the Year 8 topics on Reggae and The Blues, exploring half, quarter and eighth beats when learning about beats and rhythm and persuasive writing when studying music in the media. Many areas of Music also link with PSHE and we see the arts as a vital area through which our pupils can explore their feelings, emotions, relationships and mental health.

DRAMA

Oakfield has a strong drama and theatrical tradition. Our Drama curriculum provided pupils with many opportunities to develop a range of skills such as devising, improvisational techniques, physical theatre as well as scripted drama. Drama is about putting ourselves into someone else's shoes. It's an opportunity for all our pupils to develop socially and emotionally through the creative process.

The knowledge and skills they acquire in Drama are regularly linked/applied to other areas of the curriculum. Many areas of Drama also link with PSHE, for example, through studying coping strategies, as well as providing opportunities to explore friendships, social and moral issues. We see the arts as a vital area through which our pupils can explore their feelings, emotions, relationships and mental health.

Pupils are clear what the intended outcomes are and have means and examples to measure their own work against. In the arts pupils are expected to be reflective and evaluate their own work and the work of their peers, thinking about how they can make changes and keep improving. This is meaningful and continuous throughout the process with evidence of verbal and written reflection. Pupils are encouraged to take risks, experiment and reflect on all aspects of teaching and learning in the Performing Arts.

IMPLEMENTATION

MUSIC

All pupils receive 1 hour of music per week in all years with a specialist teacher. All pupils have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular music activities as well as learn an instrument with a visiting peri teacher.

In KS2 Pupils are taught to develop their listening and appraisal skills, composition and improvisation skills and musical performance techniques through six units of work per year, one unit per term. This includes control and use of their voices, tuned and untuned instruments with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of structures, genres and cultures. They record their practical work through recordings (which are put on a media file) and in exercise books which include examples of planning, listening, reviewing and appraising. Each unit of work builds on the last and gives all pupils a wide range of opportunities to review and re-visit previous learning. Each unit is linked to a theme, festival, composer, structure, genre or culture from across the world and throughout time.

In KS3 Pupils build on their KS2 experience to develop their creativity and ideas and increase proficiency in their execution. They are given opportunities to develop a critical understanding of composers, musicians, genres and periods in music history, and learn how to express and form reasoned judgements that can impact on future work. Just as before there are six units of work per year. Pupils record their practical work through recordings (which are put on a media file) and in exercise books which include examples of their planning, listening, reviewing and appraising. Each unit of work builds on the last and gives all pupils a wide range of opportunities to review and re-visit previous learning (inc from KS2). Each unit is linked to theme, festival, composer, structure, genre or culture from across the world and throughout time. Pupils also receive project based homework in KS3.

Music is taught by the Head of Performing Arts. Over the course of the 4 years all pupils have access to a wide range of tuned and untuned instruments with which to experiment with and to develop mastery in performance and composition. Pupils learn how to compose and perform in a variety of ways including whole class ensemble, groups, pairs and individually. Pupils study music and composers from a wide range of periods and places. Previous learning from each year is built upon by continuous practise and experimentation whilst more complex new skills such as composing a trumpet fanfare or improvising using a 'blue scale' come in later years.

All pupils across the school are encouraged to enter local and national competitions, either during lessons or as part of a whole school activity in tutor groups or as independent contesters doing work at home.

All year groups have opportunities to go on trips or take part in music workshops with visiting musicians such as those provided by our local Jackdaws Educational Trust (the Year of the Brass/Flute/Bassoon projects etc) or through Somerset Music (vocal workshops with Apollo 5, Sons of Pitches and Mark De-Lisser).

All pupils who learn an instrument are encouraged to perform in assemblies and are given opportunities to use their instruments in their lessons as part of their performance/composition tasks as appropriate. They are also encouraged to join local ensemble groups and perform regularly with other musicians.

There are many extra-curricular opportunities/clubs that pupils have the opportunity to join or participate including choir, Frome Carnival, Christmas Shows (all pupils), Blues Night, Oakfield's Got Talent, Annual music concerts and shows (Beauty and the Beast, Matilda, Annie, Grease, Aladdin and Wizard of Oz) and Shakespeare Club.

DRAMA

All pupils receive 1 hour of Drama per week in a specialist Drama Studio.

In KS2 Pupils are taught to develop their making, performing and responding skills. This includes exploring, devising, shaping and interpreting skills, presenting and producing skills, evaluating their own and others' work as well as applying knowledge and understanding. Practical work is often recorded on iPads (which are put on a media file) and pupils complete assessments/evaluations at the end of each unit (which can also include examples of planning and any relevant written work). Each unit of work builds on the last and gives all pupils a wide range of opportunities to review and re-visit previous learning.

In KS3 Pupils build on their KS2 experience to develop their creativity and ideas and increase proficiency in their execution. They are given opportunities to develop a critical understanding of plays and playwrights, build on their skills when using drama conventions and learn how to express and form reasoned judgements that can impact on future work. Practical work is often recorded on iPads (which are put on a media file) and pupils complete assessments/evaluations at the end of each unit (which can also include examples of planning and any relevant written work). Each unit of work builds on the last and gives all pupils a wide range of opportunities to review and re-visit previous learning.

Drama is currently taught by a lead specialist Drama teacher.

All pupils are encouraged to perform in assemblies and are given opportunities to show/perform their drama in their lessons as part of their performance tasks as appropriate. They are also encouraged to get involved in school productions as well as join local theatre groups.

There are many extra-curricular opportunities/clubs that pupils have the opportunity to join or participate including school production clubs, Christmas Shows (all pupils), Blues Night, Oakfield's Got Talent, Annual concerts and shows (Beauty and the Beast, Matilda, Annie, Grease, Aladdin and Wizard of Oz) and Shakespeare Club.

IMPACT

Pupils enjoy the self-expression that they experience in the Performing Arts. They are always keen to learn new skills and work hard to perfect those shown to them. Pupils' learning is very often cross-curricular and evidence can be seen across the school in classrooms and through their performances and it helps them to express feelings and emotions as well as show their knowledge and understanding in other subjects. Our pupils are given the opportunity to reach out into the community through workshops, community projects, competitions and performances. Our Performing Arts Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:-

- building upon previous learning each year at the same time as learning new skills
- testing knowledge through regular retrieval quizzes, questioning or practical tasks
- evaluating physical skills with feed forward, self and peer assessments and teacher written/verbal feedback

Pupils self evaluate and peer assess their work constantly and are encouraged in every lesson to understand where and how they need to improve and to celebrate their successes.

CAREERS

Pupils learn life skills such as investigation, planning, construction, evaluation, creating, collaboration, problem solving, resilience and the importance of practising in order to develop expertise Pupils are prepared with skills that are transferable into future work and life.

Throughout their Oakfield journey, pupils are given opportunities to explore career opportunities in the Performing Arts through topic work (Year 7 'Film Music' and Year 8 'Music in the Media'), working with professional musicians (Jackdaws workshops, Somerset Music events), tutor time 'careers' discussions, visiting bands and musicians and through assemblies.

Whilst not all pupils may take the Performing Arts as a subject or outside interest past year 8, our aim is to instil a lifelong love, understanding, curiosity and desire to have the arts embedded into their lives.