

Half Termly Curriculum Highlight

Subject: Music



## Meet the Subject Lead

### **Luke McDonagh**

Mr Mac has been the subject lead for music since the summer term of 2022-23, which saw the school change from having a dedicated music teacher in Mrs Murray to class teachers being responsible for teaching music again (after a long time away from teaching music for most staff!).

As such, this has been a huge change in terms of music teaching for the entire school! It was at the start of the academic year that we introduced the use of Sing Up as our music scheme of learning. Sign Up is a fantastic, progressive programme of music which covers a wide curriculum and develops the children's skills, passion and aptitude for the subject.

The whole of the teaching staff received in person training around teaching music from outside agencies and the local authority music organisation, One Education. Staff have worked amazingly to take up music as one of their classroom subjects and it has been wonderful to see both children and teaching staff alike enjoying the teaching of music once again.

## The Music Curriculum

Music is taught as a discrete subject at Oswald Road. We follow the Sing Up Music curriculum - a scheme of work for each year group from nursery to Year 6, which represents a complete and progressive library of resources that meets the requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Year Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum. This curriculum covers a broad and diverse range of repertoire, approaches and musical traditions, connecting the interrelated strands of singing, playing, improvising, composing, listening and appraising.

In EYFS, music is taught within the strands Expressive Arts and Design. There are also some music resources within continuous provision for children to extend the learning covered in Music lessons. Songs are sung daily with the children relating to current topics or times of year. Some of these songs are action songs, thus encouraging early development of core skills such as pulse and rhythm.

The children are taught half termly units which consist of; three 30/40 minute lessons in EYFS, three 40 minute lessons in KS1 and three 50 minute lessons in KS2. These units can be broken down and delivered in chunks at the teacher's discretion over the course of the half term.

Children's progression of musical skills falls into three categories: sing and play, improvise and compose; and listen and appraise, which are evident within each unit.

The music curriculum is sequential and key skills falls into three categories: sing and play, improvise and compose; and listen and appraise, which are evident within each unit. A main focus is musical vocabulary and each unit pays special attention to key words such as duration, tempo, structure, pitch, timbre etc.

As well as the core curriculum, there is also an enrichment curriculum. We offer peripatetic instrumental lessons on various instruments.

## **Performance Opportunities**

Our school offers numerous clubs which offer performance opportunities over the course of the year. The newly introduced We Will Rock You Project will be looking to introduce performances to parents and pupils throughout the year and there are also class performances at the end of the autumn term.

## **Subject Developments**

As music is a relatively new subject for most teaching staff, we will continue to upskill staff in terms of training and subject knowledge.

We will also be introducing singing at the start of assemblies.

Very excitingly, in the next academic year we will be introducing the We Will Rock You Project who will provide afterschool sessions for a Guitar Gang, a Rock n Rhythm Drum Club, a Rock n Roll Choir, Junior Rock Band and a Rockulele Ukulele Club.

## Pupil voice

"It feels a little bit strange but really nice because you get to be taught by your own teacher and that's what's so nice about it and you're not swapping teachers so much. It's also nice because you don't have to leave your classroom to go and do music, which means you're staying where you are comfortable."

"I've enjoyed that we've all been learning different songs and they've all made us feel lots of different emotions."

"Music is one of my favourite subjects so I like doing it with my teacher. Part of what I like about it is getting to experiment with different sounds. It gives you a bit more free range than in other lessons as you can pick which instrument you want to play."

"I have enjoyed the way my teacher teaches us music as he makes us practice more than once. I think everyone in my class enjoys music and looks forward to it."

"I used to find it stressful having different teachers for music. It feels safe with my own teacher. That makes me feel like I can express myself more because I know my teacher really well and I've had her before in Year 2."