



Music at Essex

Intent

Our music curriculum is inclusive allowing all pupils to take part in various activities, such as composing, performing and evaluating. It supports the Essex Primary School vision of 'everyone valued, everyone challenged and everyone achieving'. Therefore, it is essential that all pupils:

- Have the ability to appreciate music theoretically and audibly, as music is a universal language
- Develop a good awareness of different musical traditions and genres
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated
- Have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate a range of music
- Learn about the works of the great composers and musicians.

High quality music teaching creates a safe, stimulating environment and encourages the development of listening, speaking, confidence and pupils' music ability.

Implementation

Pupils explore musical skills by studying a famous composer, learning to develop their awareness about the different periods of music, the instruments and the notation used. Pupils are provided with a variety of activities such as theoretical research, analysis of recorded pieces, using music elements and comparative work. All activities result in a recorded piece of composed music. In the EYFS, the focus is understanding tuned and un-tuned instruments. The pupils' audio awareness is trained to enable them to distinguish between high and low notes. Therefore, pupils have a lot of experience in music composition. In KS1, pupils begin to compose with meaning, whilst exploring different music traditions. They learn to manipulate their voice to create different sounds. They begin to use notation to demonstrate their understanding of musical elements. In KS2, pupils deepen their learning by composing with musical elements and techniques. Pupils learn subject specific vocabulary such as 'harmony', 'ostinato' and 'unison'. They begin to produce musical notation using a treble clef, crotchet and quavers.

Impact

Pupil voice has shown a greater appreciation for music. Pupils realise the value of music in their lives and are now confident to access the curriculum with vigour. Their feedback shows that pupils feel music creates an opportunity for them to express themselves creatively. This has enabled pupils to leave Essex Primary School feeling confident in their musical ability, whether using their voice or playing an instrument. Some, of our pupils have been offered scholarships in various instruments, owing to their talent.

Enrichment

Essex Primary School is an inclusive school, which creates every possibility for pupils to demonstrate and discover their abilities. The 'Learning through Music' project, which is run in the EYFS, combines music with literature. It ensures music is accessible to all children and supports children to select musical instruments. Also, whole class ukulele sessions ensure all children have the opportunity to learn how to play the instrument whilst they are at Essex. Alongside this, guitar lessons run after school. Also, throughout the year, there are music projects, which are linked to current issues. These projects incorporate all subject areas, but most importantly, the projects enable communities from all backgrounds to come together. To display the pupils' talents, we run an 'Essex Musical Festival', where the children audition and perform their own pieces. Finally, pupils have the opportunity to take part in the 'Commonwealth Orchestra and Choir', where they get to network with other schools. This develops pupils' singing ability.