

Intent

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At Poulner Junior School, the intention is that all children develop their own love for music in whichever way suits them the best; be that listening, singing, composing or performing. We do this through providing children with experience of all of these key areas using music from different times – historical periods to present day, cultures and genres; this also develops their understanding and acceptance of the importance of all types of music. We encourage curiosity by evaluating music used for particular purposes such as ceremonies in different eras and cultures, music common to war times and music written to purvey a particular message. Children are encouraged to realise that responses to music can be personal and that differing opinions about the same pieces are common and to be respected.

Implementation

Our curriculum ensures that all children listen, sing, play, perform and evaluate music. This is embedded in our taught sessions and within our assemblies with a selected 'song of the week' to enable all children to listen to a wide variety of musical pieces throughout the year. Through our taught sessions, children learn the elements of music and associated language, which supports them in using appropriate vocabulary when discussing and evaluating music. Sessions allow children to focus on different elements individually, which develops their ability to incorporate these into their own compositions. The taught units also develop the children's understanding of a variety of music notation, from graphic scores to simple stave notation.

All year groups have access and opportunity to play a wide range of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments, including body percussion. In year 4, children learn to play a different instrument each term with expert tuition from the Hampshire Music Service. Through singing units, children are taught appropriate posture and facial expressions for singing clearly which enables them to control their voice and experience success in performance. In each unit of work, children gain performance experience; this could be within a small group, to the whole class or to a wider audience. Each year group is afforded the opportunity to perform to their parents, carers and the school community through concerts, assemblies or musical plays.

Further opportunities to perform, both in school and in the local community, are offered to those who desire it through the school choir and peripatetic music lessons.

Impact

At Poulner Junior School, children experience a varied musical programme which develops all areas of our HEART values. Their understanding that responses to music are personal develops their confidence to give honest evaluations of the pieces they listen to and show respect towards their peers and adults whose opinions may be different. When evaluating their own compositions and performances, children are encouraged to think carefully and be honest with themselves on both their successes and areas they would like to improve on.

When giving feedback on the compositions and performances of their peers, children are given time to ensure these are both thoughtful and honest. Thoughtfulness and honesty are further developed through the composition and performance sessions, where children are encouraged to support those around them, or seek support for themselves, if they are struggling. For many children, performing can be a daunting prospect; however, through the sessions, their experiences of this area of music are developed, building up from small performances to larger with thoughtful feedback given at each stage. For most children, this results in the development of a positive attitude towards performing alongside their peers, and for some as a solo performer.

This development of a positive attitude is reflected in the self-esteem and confidence children show through their music lessons. At each stage of learning, children are encouraged to be the best they can be – to show their excellence in what they are doing and to not be afraid if it doesn't go as planned. As well as developing all of the HEART values, music helps the children to develop their social interactions – working in small or large groups to meet one goal – their sense of achievement and their self-confidence. It supports their understanding of culture and history, developing a respect for music of different eras and ethnicities.

Through the variety of music children encounter at Poulner Junior School, they will begin to develop their own relationship with music, understanding how best they enjoy it and take that forward into their lives.