



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Intent

At Birches First School, we aim to give children a musical education which provides them with a chance to express themselves physically and emotionally through music. We hope to motivate and capture each child's individual interest and encourage them to develop their own sense of musical style so that they not only learn about music; but they become musicians who are able to share and perform using their new skills. We aim to expose the children to a wide selection of musical genres from across the globe and hope to broaden the styles of music that they listen to and enjoy.

Implementation

Music is at the heart of everything we do at Birches. Songs can often be heard throughout the school in all subjects; not just during Music. We find that music helps the children to memorise and solidify key concepts, in a positive, fun and engaging way. At Birches First School, we consistently go the extra mile to ensure children have access to a rich set of musical experiences; in the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

Music lessons are taught through the *Charanga* music scheme, which is in line with the National Curriculum. We believe that this scheme provides staff of all musical abilities, a firm foundation to plan and teach their lessons. Staff have access to lesson plans, schemes of work, progression of skills, high quality resources and assessment tools; which is not only hugely beneficial for the children but also supports staff well-being.

In Year 4, every child is given the opportunity to learn the ukulele by an external peripatetic music teacher. Weekly lessons run throughout the year, culminating in an end of year showcase for their peers and parents. Children take pride in their end of year performance and inspire the younger children in the school.

Children have singing assembly, once a week. Singing is a great starting point for musical learning and the development of musicianship skills, while being a hugely enjoyable activity for pupils and teachers. At the same time, it creates a strong and positive sense of community within our school and binds our Birches community together. The school sings collectively every day during assembly and we mark significant moments by singing together - like celebrating the school's 60th Anniversary and religious celebrations. Parents are regularly invited into school to watch their children perform and pupils work hard to develop their performance skills. At Birches we are passionate about music as we know that singing forms a large part of what pupils will remember about their time at school, long after they have left.

Other extra-curricular activities on offer for the children include specialist keyboard tuition and Key Stage 2 choir. Through exposing the children to a wide selection of musical genres from across the globe, children are able to expand their taste in music and are strongly encouraged to have discussions and share their opinions with their peers.

Impact

Every child at Birches First School leaves having had the opportunity to learn to play at least one a broad and rich experience of music.

The majority of children will achieve age related expectations in Music at the end of their cohort year.

Pupil voice shows that children at Birches First School have a positive attitude towards music and take pleasure in music based activities. Teacher feedback says that the *Charanga* music scheme has had a positive impact on the quality of their music lessons; in regards to their own teaching and in pupil attainment.

