

Music in Ramsbury School

We believe that a successful school is a musical school. In Ramsbury Primary School, music is alive, it is celebrated and it forms an integral part of every day. We place immense value of the power of music to help build pupils' self-esteem, to encourage creativity, to build relationships, to foster life skills and to benefit children's learning across the whole curriculum. Music is fun, music is for life and music is for everyone.

Intent

Our intent is to provide high quality opportunities for pupils to sing, play, compose, improvise, listen to and evaluate music across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres, including the works of the great composers and musicians from all over the world. At Ramsbury, we are committed to fostering an increasing love of and curiosity for music, developing children's imagination and creativity so that they can understand and explore how music is composed, produced and communicated and so that they can experience the sheer joy and pleasure of performing and creating music.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and aim to give them opportunities to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music in a variety of different contexts. Music is a practical subject; it is academic, creative, technical and challenging. In Ramsbury School, all children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, to take part in a dazzling array of extra-curricular ensembles and to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

Implementation

Musical learning is about thinking and acting musically. Our music lessons are about learning in and through music, not solely about music. Our 'Sing Up' Platinum award means that singing is firmly embedded as an integral part of every lesson as well as a part of everyday life at Ramsbury School. Our curriculum ensures children have ample opportunities to sing, listen, play, compose, improvise, perform and evaluate, whilst developing a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and to listen with discernment. The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons, so that children are able to use the language of music to dissect it and are able to understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. Our teachers draw from a wide range of their own and published material (for example the 'Sing Up' website) and they make links with other subjects wherever possible.

We aim to build pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding, and support this by providing an increasing level of challenge throughout their primary school years: all children learn how to sing, and all children learn how to play an instrument, from pitched and unpitched percussion in the Early Years and Year 1, to whole class recorder playing in Year 2, to opportunities for individual and paired instrumentals lessons in Years 3 to 6 (engaging with high-quality local providers – currently our children learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, violin, viola, cello, trumpet, cornet, trombone, harp, piano, guitar and drums). In doing so, the children understand the different principles of creating notes, as well as how to read basic music notation. In addition, we provide pupils with opportunities to make use of appropriate music technology – from recording their performances on iPads and composing using Garage Band and other apps, to experimenting with manipulating sounds using technology.

This is all embedded not just in the classroom activities but also our the weekly 'Sing Up' sessions, weekly whole-school assemblies, end of term services, frequent concerts and community performances, visits and performance by professional visitors and by the learning of instruments. Further opportunities are provided for children to join one of our many musical ensembles (such as the 40-strong Orchestra, the Choir, the Brass Ensemble, Jazz Band, String Group and Chamber Orchestra). Whether it be by developing the needs of a Grade 5 cellist by providing an orchestra and string quartet for them to play in, or developing a love of drumming or singing for a child in Year 3, all children in Ramsbury School have the opportunity to access curricular and extra-curricular music in a fun, engaging and challenging way.

Impact

The vibrant nature of Music at Ramsbury School is a key contributing factor to our children's confidence and self-esteem when they leave us in Year 6. As an integral part of culture, past and present, music helps pupils understand themselves, relate to others and develop their cultural understanding, forging important links between home, school and the wider world. It enables them to discover areas of strength, helps them develop an understanding of culture

and history, and creates an enormously rich palette from which they can access fundamental abilities such as achievement, self-confidence, creativity, interaction with and awareness of others and self-reflection. Frequent opportunities to share their work with an audience encourages our children to develop a sense of ownership of their music-making and to reflect on their progress and development. We celebrate their success by giving them ample opportunities to perform and showcase their abilities in music (and indeed in all the arts) including events such as:

- singing and playing with their peers in class assemblies and Christmas productions
- giving class concerts
- working with professional opera singers
- performing as a cluster with other schools, working with visiting professionals
- taking part in our annual talent show (Ramsbury's Got Talent)
- playing a solo at for the local older residents at the Link Tea Party
- taking a role in a whole-class musical
- entering the KS2 annual Ramsbury School Eisteddfod
- performing at our 4 annual church services
- performing in a chamber ensemble for visiting dignitaries
- playing in an orchestra, singing in a choir, playing in a chamber ensemble
- performing in the KS1 Nativity
- taking a role in the Year 6 musical

It is wonderful to see our pupils and their families experience a sense of achievement and pride in their musical activities.

The Curriculum Leader for Music is Mrs Sian Haynes.

