



The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School

Curriculum position statements – September 2023

Music

Historical

There has been a long tradition of performing arts at the Meadow stretching back many years. End of year performances for Key Stage Two and more recently Year 6 have played a massive role in these end of term traditions at the Meadow. These performances have always involved aspects of music but mainly focussed on singing rather than musical composition and the playing of instruments. At Christmas, again music has played a big part in our school traditions and involved performances from each key stage relevant for their age. In Foundation Stage, in the past, children have always performed a simple play with songs and actions included. In Key Stage One, children have performed a Christmas play again with songs included whilst Key Stage Two have hosted a carol concert involving traditional Christmas songs most recently at St Thomas' Church in South Wigston but previously held at All Saints Church before Year 6 were a part of the school. Again the strand of music involved in all of these performances has tended to be more vocal based and less about composition and the playing of musical instruments.

The teaching of music across the school in the past few years has relied heavily on the use of schemes of work including Music Express and Sing Up with the exception of Foundation Stage where music has been taught through careful planning during continuous provision and during Sing and Sign sessions. Whilst there have been benefits to using Music Express, as most music is taught during PPA sessions by cover supervisors, the scheme has quickly become outdated due to the introduction of the new National Curriculum. In the past few years, there has been a loss of skills in all year groups due to the use of Music Express and Sing Up. Especially with regards to the playing of musical instruments and whilst vocal talents may be strong, there is very little celebration of talented musicians throughout the school and very little teaching of music through the use of musical instruments. This has begun to change with the introduction of music enrichment days in the 2019/20 school year as well as the introduction of a more up to date scheme of work devised by the current music lead using a variety of resources. Children have very little exposure to traditional songs and hymns outside of Christmas and end of year performances and rarely sing together as a whole school. There is however, always a musical element to whole class assemblies presented to parents which is always well received. Again though, this has often focussed on the more vocal elements of music rather than composition and instrument playing. In other curriculum areas, aspects of music are included where possible. For example, listening to music from other cultures and historical eras during humanities lessons and on celebration days. A good proportion of Foundation teaching has taken place through the use of music, rhymes and songs. For example, Dough Disco, Sing and Sign and an early topic focussing on nursery rhymes. Across all key stages, boys have been out performed by the girls in analysis of assessment data both at the expected standard and at GDS. In 2019-2020, a new scheme of work was introduced to Key Stage One and Two. There is now more focus on teaching using instruments and in Years 3-6, children are now learning to play a musical instrument. In Years 3 and 4 they play Boomwhackers and in Years 5 and 6, they play recorders. The playing of musical instruments has also been introduced into more concerts with Key Stage Two showing off their talents in the use of Boomwhackers and recorders at the Christmas carol concert at St Thomas' Church. The scheme of work also focussed on exposing children to a wider variety of music from different historical periods and cultures and will tie in heavily with history and geography topics. Children are also learnt music in historical order focusing on consecutive periods in different year groups in Key Stage Two and a general historical overview in Key Stage One. Two enrichment days took place to further develop children's love of music. In the Autumn Term 2019, there were workshops led by the Sons of Pitches focussing on developing acapella skills. The purpose behind this was to engage children more in music and help them to access music even when they are not playing an instrument. In the Spring Term, there was a musical celebration day where children were encouraged to dress up as their favourite musician



and share with their classmates any musical talents that they possess. Rock Steady Music also attended along with a recycled materials band and a Sri Lankan music and dance group. We also had volunteer parents and ex pupils attend who showed off their talents in drumming, playing the flute and opera singing. New equipment has been purchased to ensure easy delivery of the new scheme of work. Music was played as children entered assemblies however, this was not consistent. We also had an easy to use speaker bought for the hall.

Due to Covid, Music has had over 2 years of disruption and unfortunately singing assemblies did not take place in previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore we did need to catch up on the curriculum. We needed to raise the profile of Music and hoped to use Music ambassadors to represent, create displays and events so children will be able to talk about and celebrate successes and achievements in music.

We continued to use Rock Steady Music in school. In September, peripatetic lessons for those wishing to learn more musical instruments began and we currently have 38 children playing instruments. This made learning music fun and gave children a chance to be in a band and perform and celebrate what they had learnt. The children performed mini concerts to their parents to showcase their skills and development. Music lessons have used the Rock Steady Music and we have had access to a weekly streamed lesson on Fridays which the whole school can access. This provides children with games and songs which makes music easily accessible and teaches key terminology and skills. The Leicestershire Music Hub came in to do a recorder workshops with Y3 and Y4, this workshop gave the children exposure to learning an instrument, playing as a collective and each child received their own recorder to take home and keep.

Current

In 2023 we bought into a new scheme of work from the Leicestershire Music Hub. This scheme is up to date with Music policies and shows a clear progression of skills to Year 6. It provides children with musical experiences that will inspire and engage children in learning. This allows the children to listen to a wide genre of music, begin to read music and start to compose their own. It is also aimed at the non-specialist teacher. As our Music lessons are taught by cover supervisors it is imperative that staff feel confident and supported in their delivery of lessons. This new scheme provides detailed lesson plans, resources, assessment and a clear progression of skills. All terminology is explained and video links/music clips to foster the children's interest are used too. Relevant staff have had training in Unit 1 and will begin their first delivery of this in the new academic year 23/24. Prior to each half term they will receive training for the next unit whilst we embed this new scheme and staff become familiar with it.

We will also continue to use Rock steady Music for those children learning to play Musical instruments and these children will continue to celebrate their learning and showcase their skills and developments through mini concerts.

Future aspiration

We aim to Improve and enhance staff knowledge and skills in order to deliver high quality music lessons for all children. This is through training and workshops. A joint Symphony training is currently being discussed.

We hope to use Music Ambassadors to raise the profile and organise some of the events listed below:

- Attendance at concerts
- Introduction of school choir
- Reintroduction of music into assemblies; listening to music as children enter and leave assemblies.
- Singing assemblies
- Further enrichment days focussing on different aspects of music
- Talented musicians to be celebrated in whole class assemblies for parents
- Introduction of a Key Stage Two Music recital concert to celebrate the talented musicians we have in school
- Share current music learning in assemblies.
- Raise awareness of key vocabulary structure.
- Music festival, celebrating current learning, multicultural links and musicians within the school.