

Statement of Intent for Music at Bridgewater Primary School.

Intent - Why do we teach this? Why do we teach it in the way we do?

At Bridgewater, we value music because it is a powerful and unique form of communication that can change and impact the way children feel, think and act. We believe that teaching music helps the body and the mind work together and can help children excel in other areas of their learning. Exposing children to music during early development helps them to learn the sounds and meanings of words. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practice self-expression. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to develop their musical potential and we aim to nurture and encourage musical development across the school. All children will learn to play an orchestral instrument and perform in an ensemble. Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision, which aims to enable all children, regardless of background and/or ability, additional needs to flourish to become the very best version of themselves they can possibly be.

Music teaching and learning profile.

Music Vision at Bridgewater.

We began developing our music curriculum over a number of years ago and decided that the most effective way to ensure the children are given a balanced music curriculum would be through the use of music experts. The music experts that are used in school, not only provide the children with the knowledge and skills required to become a confident and competent musician but also help to up skill the teachers within school and develop their CPD within music. At Bridgewater, due to a lot of our children having limited experiences, an essential focus of our curriculum is to ensure the children are given opportunities that they may never experience within their community. Bringing in music experts, allows the children to be immersed in a music curriculum that promotes ambition, success and a can do attitude which is essential for their futures. We believe that having an emphasis on music within our school, provides a lot of transferable and cross curricular skills, which are essential as part of our children's learning and provide every child within school an opportunity to succeed within an area of the curriculum, particularly our pupil premium and SEN children who may not always excel within core subjects.

What music lessons look like.

At Bridgewater, we teach the National Curriculum, supported by a clear skills and knowledge progression. This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children. Each year group is taught music by music specialists, in order to excel in the area of music being taught. From Nursery to Year 4, children have two hours of 'In Harmony' teaching by specialist musicians from Sage Gateshead, during which they progress to play a string or brass

instrument. This will move through the school with them and often children have small group lessons or one to one tuition in order to match their skill. .

Currently, Years 5 to 6, experience a variety of music specialist lessons throughout the year- in half termly blocks during which they build up to a whole group performance with elements of composition within each taught unit, including, violin, tin whistle and drumming provided by the Newcastle Music Service and Nemco. Each of the teachers that work in the school are trained classical musicians from the Sage Gateshead or graded musicians. We also have a singing expert, who comes in to lead choir and teaches Y2-Y6 to develop the children's vocal skills. Within each lesson, the children are introduced to and use a range of musical vocabulary and technical terms and learn to read musical notation, compose and perform (see separate progression of skills document) which is suitable for their age and stage of musical learning. Application of these skills, is then revisited and built upon through a range of engaging activities and methods to ensure that it is embedded and children make clear progress. Whole school singing is led during assemblies for our collective worship throughout the year and is led by a vocal specialist or our music co-ordinator who have both been trained within the area of vocal leadership and conducting through the Concordia project. We also have after school clubs and holiday club provision for music and singing.

Supporting and monitoring children's progress.

Throughout each lesson, the teachers and music experts make careful and accurate observations of the children's progress and intervene using a same day intervention approach, in order to target the children's gaps and areas for development. Teaching staff track progress using the iPad and continuously record music sessions to track and monitor children within their learning and development. Within the In Harmony project, children also take their instruments home from years 1-3 and can be given directions of an area to practice before their next musical session. One to one sessions are also ran within year 3, where the children are developing and fine tuning their ever growing skills to ensure that every child is provided with the opportunity to make maximum progress. Children will also be entered for their grades when ready.