



Music

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Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year!

Here you will find out more about the music curriculum, the contribution of music to children's lives and the various musical opportunities available to pupils at Raddlebarn.

Thank you for taking the time to read it and if you have any questions please feel free to get in touch.

Mrs Ravenhill

Curriculum aims

Here at Raddlebarn Primary School, music plays an important and enjoyable part in school life and we are committed to making music an enjoyable learning experience which is accessible to all. We aim to inspire our pupils to develop a love of music and nurture their talents as musicians.

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

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.

- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions.

Music reflects the culture and society we live in. Therefore, the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in.

It is a unique means of communication which can inspire and motivate. It also has the potential to make a significant contribution to children's personal development: increasing confidence and self-esteem, developing leadership, promoting teamworking, concentration and problem-solving skills, developing identity, as well as improving social cohesion within school and wider community.

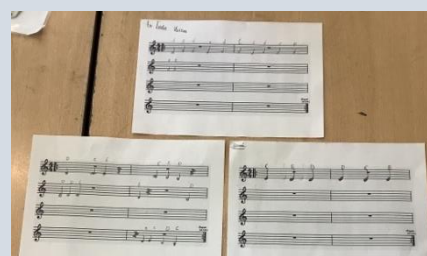
Music Teaching at Raddlebarn

Music is usually taught once a week in the classroom. Where possible, units of work link to the termly year group topics, our school values or themes. Each unit comprises the strands of musical learning laid out in the National Curriculum and the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021. Throughout the units there are opportunities for:

- Listening and Appraising
- Singing
- Various musical activities in to identify pulse, rhythm, structure and pitch
- Playing instruments
- Improvisation
- Composing
- Performing

Lessons are stimulating and fun. They are highly practical and full of music, supported with high quality, engaging resources from Charanga Musical School (Reception upwards).

Knowledge is built upon and skills are developed as pupils work through the units and progress through school.



Pupil Voice

During the last school year, pupils in KS2 were interviewed about their music learning.

All of the comments were overwhelmingly positive and it is clear that pupils enjoy their music lessons in school.

These are some of the comments made:

"It is fun because we get to sing in different tables and have a bit of a competition."

"It's fun because you get to sing and use the instruments."

"You hear different types of music. It's interesting how music is made."

"Music lessons are fun and relaxing. Music helps me with other subjects, like English."

"It's good to sing and play with other people. You feel good doing things together."

"Music is amazing. It helps me to feel calm."



Instrumental Lessons

Pupils from Year 1 upwards are offered the chance to learn to play a musical instrument. Visiting staff from Birmingham Services for Education Music team teach these lessons. Currently, there are opportunities to learn the violin, cello, double bass, guitar, flute, clarinet and brass instruments,

These lessons are normally taught in small groups during the school day and are in addition to the normal music teaching in school.

There is a small fee for these lessons but instruments are loaned free of charge to pupils.

Opportunities are taken to perform in class, in school assemblies and also in live concerts to family audiences and the wider community.

Choir

All pupils from Year 1 upwards are invited to join either the KS1 or KS2 choir, which meet weekly to practise singing a range of songs.

The choirs are taught by experienced volunteers and the children really enjoy their singing.

The choirs represent our school at various local community events. They also perform at school events. More recently, they performed at our school carnival to celebrate the Commonwealth Games.

They also have opportunities to perform in more formal concerts.



Further Opportunities for Music

During the school year there are opportunities for our pupils to enjoy live music performed by experienced musicians and through the Music Service, we have opportunities for pupils to participate in concerts, alongside other local schools.

We have strong links with local secondary schools who can perform and offer further exciting learning opportunities.

In school each key stage has a weekly music assembly where children have the chance to listen to and learn about a wide range of musical genres and styles and also watch musicians performing.

Our annual end-of-school-year event "Raddlebarn Rocks!" provides all children in school with the opportunity to perform and show case their own talents.

Achievements and Aims

Music is an important part of the curriculum and, indeed, of school life at Raddlebarn, especially after the period of caution during the Covid pandemic. Pupils enjoy their music lessons and progress is being made across the school.

We also recognise the important role music has to play in the mental well-being of pupils.

Performance in Events

At Raddlebarn we are very proud to have many children learning to play an instrument. In recognition of this, the Music Service selected our school to set up a string ensemble which rehearses every week.

The ensemble has performed not only in virtual concerts but also in school concerts at Birmingham University and at the Youth Proms at Symphony Hall.

Our upper school choir has also performed at the Youth Proms alongside the choirs from other local schools and other prestigious events.

For the future, it is hoped that we will be able to once again give pupils the chance to perform to a live audience in our termly concerts and class assemblies.

Awards

Raddlebarn has been awarded the Silver Arts mark in recognition of the work being carried out in school across all the arts.

We are also a Music Mark school, in recognition of the value we place on music and our dedication to offering a broad and balanced curriculum, nominated and in conjunction with the Birmingham Music Service.



Music at Home

If you would like to explore music further at home, each Raddlebarn pupil has their own individual username and password, enabling them to use Yumu, which is Charanga's online learning space for students. Please ask if you need help with this.



<https://charanga.com/yumu/login>