

A SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC AT RADDLEBARN



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Hello and welcome to our latest curriculum newsletter shining a spotlight on Music.

Music plays an important role in school life here at Raddlebarn. We love listening to music, singing and playing instruments. We also know that music has a significant impact on children's cognitive development and is good for our general well-being.

In this issue you will find out what has been happening recently and some of the things we are doing to help develop music in school.

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch.

Mrs Ravenhill

Curriculum aims

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.

Here at Raddlebarn, 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.

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 has the potential to make a significant contribution to a child'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. It can also play a significant role in our well-being and mental health.

Music Teaching at Raddlebarn

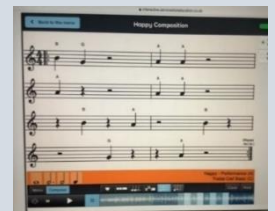
Music is usually taught once a week in the classroom. Wherever possible, units of work link to our termly year group topics.

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. During their lessons, pupils are:

- Listening and Appraising
- Singing
- Taking part in games and activities to identify musical elements
- Playing instruments
- Improvising
- Composing
- Performing

Lessons are stimulating and fun. They are highly practical and full of music, supported with a range of engaging resources from around the world, both contemporary and from the past, from Charanga (Reception upwards).

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



What do our pupils think?

Pupils across the school like to voice their opinions about their music lessons.

All of their comments are overwhelmingly positive and it is quite obvious that pupils enjoy their music lessons in school.

Here are some of the things they had to say:

"Music makes you feel good." Reception.

"It would be sad without music. It makes me feel calm and happy." Year 1.

"If you don't learn music in lessons at school, you won't know anything." Year 2.

"Mrs Ravenhill, I love our music lessons in Year 3. They are so fun!" Year 3.

"It's important because it might be your dream when you're older. It helps your voice." Year 4.

"I like all the different tunes and styles of music. I love rock, pop and slow music." Year 5.

"It's a good way to express yourself. It can help your mood but that depends on the music." Year 6.



Instrumental Lessons

Pupils from Year 1 upwards are given the opportunity 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 last year were invited to join either the KS1 or KS2 choir, which met weekly to practise singing a range of songs. We hope to run choir again shortly!

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

The choirs sing at school events and at various local community events. We already have invitations and hope to also be able to perform on the stage at more formal concerts in the coming year.



Achievements

Our pupils enjoy music lessons and achieve well. Good progress is being shown across all year groups.

We are very proud to have a high proportion of children choosing to learn to play an instrument. They are committed musicians and many are motivated to take nationally recognised music exams or grades with huge success.

Performances

In the past academic year, it has been wonderful to welcome back school concerts before a live audience. Our more experienced players performed in the autumn term and our newcomers performed in the summer concert.

We are very proud to be one of several schools in Birmingham to boast an ensemble. Our strings ensemble, led by a teacher from Birmingham Services for Education, meets weekly to rehearse and play as a group. The pupils have performed not only in virtual concerts but also at Birmingham Conservatoire and at the Youth Proms at Symphony Hall.

We have been invited to perform at these musical celebrations again this academic year.

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.



Events and Opportunities

Coming up

During the school year there are opportunities for our pupils to enjoy live music performed by professional musicians.

For example, pupils in KS2 were treated to a performance by a group of brass musicians and Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took part in brass workshops at the start of this term.

Our in-school concert dates for instrumental players are:

20th December 2023

20th March 2024

17th July 2024

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for pupils to participate in school events and concerts in Birmingham, alongside other local schools. These dates will be confirmed in due course.

We have forged links with local secondary schools and look forward to collaborating with them on some exciting new projects. Further details will follow.

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>