

# Music at Western EYFS

Nursery - Children enjoy participating with songs and rhymes. Opportunities for children to move, paint and respond to a range of music are offered. Children have opportunities to make their own sounds using their body and instruments. Children may begin to tap out simple rhythms.

Reception - Children are building a repertoire of songs and enjoy joining in with the pitch and melody. Children enjoy making their own instruments and playing percussion and can use rhythms and patterns to make simple compositions of their own. Children have lots of opportunities to enjoy and respond to different types of music. Children enjoy performing and singing in the Early Years Christmas Concert for an audience.



## KS1

Year 1 – Children play lots of singing games, which combine music and movement. This kinaesthetic approach helps children to develop important thinking skills, including memory, sequencing and concentration; physical skills such as motor skills and coordination, and exploring children’s innate creativity with improvisation and role-playing. We move to music to show whether it makes us feel happy or sad. We sing the register whenever possible, to help children develop confidence in their own voices and use them in different ways, such as chanting, speaking and singing. Elements of music such as rhythm and pulse, tempo, pitch and dynamics are absorbed through these games without the children realising the many musical skills they are learning. Children in Year 1 begin to identify simple 4 beat rhythms when clapped or played on a percussion instrument, and they learn to recognise these rhythms when they see them written in notated form.

Year 2 - Building on their understanding of the elements of music, children in Year 2 will learn to create sounds and put them together so that their simple composition has a beginning, a middle and an end. They will be able to talk about how pitch, rhythm, loud and soft music and the speed of the music all affect the mood of the music. Using lightweight ‘mood masks’ which portray 4 different emotions - happy, sad, angry and surprised, children are encouraged to move their bodies accordingly in time with a song about emotions to help convey each mood. In Year 2, we listen to and talk about two very different genres of music - jazz and country - and how to identify them, for example, which instruments they use and the style in which they are being played or how they are being sung.



## Y3/4

Building on the skills developed in KS1, children will learn about the 4 instrument families and which instruments belong to each. We focus on Blues music, briefly looking at its origin and the mood of this particular genre. Children learn to count bars using the 12 bar blues sequence, and write, perform and record our own blues song. We incorporate a 12 bar instrumental section with all children playing a blues riff on glockenspiels, then taking it in turns to improvise a solo on the xylophone. In Year 3/4, children also learn to play the recorder and develop their understanding of reading music through simple notated rhythms, using up to 3 different notes.

There is an after-school choir for children in year 3/4, where we learn to sing songs in harmony which we perform at concerts throughout the year. These include Harvest Festival, Music Evening, Summer and Christmas Fairs and Carols Around the Tree, along with seasonal visits to several care homes and Christmas events held in the town.



Male Voice Choir Visit

## Y5/6

In Year 5/6, children learn to compare features in music, for example, in pop, folk and classical music, and look in more depth at the instrumentation, style, texture, tempo and dynamics of each genre. They learn how to recognise what is happening in a piece of music, identifying where musical devices such as the use of pentatonic scale, syncopation and triplet rhythm is evident.

They learn about the History of Music from its early origins to the present day, with an overview of each period of time accompanied by examples of music. They then look in some detail at the lives and music of two Baroque and two Classical composers, Handel, Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, then design and create a folder on this topic.

During Black History week, we look at the origin of jazz music and the effects this had on early 20th century music.

Year 5/6 children look at the role of music in advertising, and work in small groups to design a new product such as cereal or a chocolate bar, creating a slogan and writing and recording a jingle using either Garage Band on their iPads or tuned and untuned percussion instruments. They learn to be reflective about their own work and that of others, and suggest ways in which the music could be improved.

There is an after-school choir for Year 5/6 children in which we learn a variety of songs, many in 3- part harmony, sometimes accompanied by dancing. We work on professionalism and stage presence for our concerts and performances which are always well-received, as we work at a level above that of a typical primary school choir.

