

Park Gate Music Curriculum

Music surrounds us! From our earliest memories of singing nursery rhymes to commemorating important events, music expresses emotions, can create memories and encompasses everyday life.



Throughout their seven years at school, the children will develop their understanding of the seven dimensions of music: pitch, duration, tempo, texture, timbre, structure and dynamics, each year building upon the skills encountered previously. They will also compose and perform a variety of different styles of music, whilst experiencing the process of working together creatively from the start of the composition process, through different styles of notation, to rehearsals and eventually the final performance.

At Park Gate the most important aspect of music is that of creativity and enjoyment. In every year group, music is taught through a range of strategies, including games, encouraging the children to listen to and respond to the different examples of music they are exposed to in a variety of different ways.

Immerse yourself in our music curriculum by taking a journey through some of the exciting musical experiences at Park Gate Primary School..

Music starts in Year R, where you will see the children celebrating Chinese New Year through creating music for a dragon dance. Then travel through KS1, where the Year 1 children fill the school with song as they rehearse for their Christmas production! A few steps away in Year 2, the children will have their first opportunity to learn a musical instrument (the recorder), taking part in the Hampshire Music Service program of Listen2Me.

Along to Year 3, the children have the opportunity to learn to play the ukulele. As you reach Year 4, the children will use their skills to compose and record music to accompany their Dragon Poetry Slam. Year 3 and 4 get their main opportunity to perform during the production at Easter, implementing all the singing and rehearsal skills they have been introduced to.

As you move to Upper Key Stage 2, the children in Year 5 will be exploring both vocal sounds and instrumental sounds, using those sounds to create two contrasting pieces of atmospheric space music. They will also have their final session of Listen2Me when they learn the keyboard. Each of these instrumental experiences is concluded with a small concert to parents, demonstrating their prowess on the different instruments. Finally, Year 6 will be seen developing their understanding of pitch, duration and texture, particularly in the introduction and use of chords through Calypso Sparkle! Rehearsal and singing remain a focus as Year 5 and 6 perform their production in the summer term.

Music is usually taught as a discrete subject, being a separate part of the curriculum to our projects, however, we do link our music to the same theme, where possible, so that it enhances our project experience.

Outside of curricular music, we continue to have a strong culture of performance at Park Gate Primary School, boasting a Key Stage 2 choir which takes part in local community events. We also run a Musical Extravaganza Club, which enables those children who aspire to being on the stage to shine. The children also have the opportunity to build upon their taught playing skills by signing up to learn either the guitar or a brass, woodwind or string instrument as they enter key stage 2, or through participation in 'Rock2theBeat', where pupils join a band, learning vocals, electric or bass guitar, drums or keyboard.

If you would like to find out more please read our long term overviews.

The Subject Leaders for Music are Mrs Marsh and Mrs McCarthy.

