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<p>At Bishop Wood School, we see music as a unique form of communication that inspires and motivates children. It is a vehicle for self-expression, and through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analyzing and composing, plays an important part in the children's personal development. Through learning about and experiencing music from a variety of cultures and historical contexts (Year 4 learn about the life and work of Joseph Bologne) children will come to an appreciation of differences as well as a recognition of music as a 'universal language' (The National Curriculum), thereby fostering a better understanding and tolerance of the world in which they live. To encourage participation and opportunities for excellence, Bishop Wood is committed to offering chances for musical enrichment, and sharing of achievement, through extracurricular activities, community events, and music celebration assemblies. In the wider school day, during worship and classroom reflection, music is used as a tool through which children can experience joy, sadness and hope, appreciating music for its own sake.</p> <p>Music is a powerful tool that can change the way children think, feel and act and we are committed to harnessing its universal appeal.</p>	<p>An active, inclusive music curriculum is offered, with a focus on enjoyment and engagement. We recognise, as do Goldfield School, that musical teaching and learning is not linear, and that musical strands are part of a learning spiral. Our curriculum ensures repetition and development in each strand of playing and performing, improvising and composing, listening and increasing aural memory.</p> <p>Music is given a high profile across the school, with opportunities for children to share their skills and talents in and outside music lessons.</p> <p>Being a junior school, we have taken into consideration the music curriculum that our pupils have experienced in KS1. Before coming to Bishop Wood, they have mainly been taught using the online scheme, Charanga, supplemented with Music Express. They are at present trialling Music Express Online, which is the scheme that provides the structure of our KS2 curriculum. In Year 2 the pupils have learnt to play the recorder.</p> <p>Year 3 are taught to play the Ukelele through the 'First Access' scheme offered by Hertfordshire Music Service; they develop ensemble skills, learn about pitch, tempo, dynamics and develop the skill to keep a steady beat. They also play musical games to embed basic skills, and they develop their understanding of staff notation. They have a chance to perform to the rest of the school during a Celebration Assembly</p> <p>In Year 4, pupils use the Music Express Online resource to develop skills in listening, composing, performing and considering structure.</p> <p>Music Express provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform. Steady progression is built into the Music Express curriculum, and it is ensured that the units chosen provide this progression. There are cross curricular links where the opportunities arise.</p>	<p>Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows them to discover areas of strength, as well as areas to improve upon through repetition and practice. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a student may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to students individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music as listeners, creators and performers. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives.</p>

<p>“Music is a higher revelation than all Wisdom & Philosophy” — Ludwig van Beethoven</p>	<p>In term one of Year 5, pupils learn songs to perform at a Young Voices concert in January. The songs include rounds, echo singing, and those with 2 or 3 parts. They consider the pitch, dynamics, tempo and structure of the songs that they are singing. They develop music memory, and skills in performing as a large group. In terms 2 and 3, units are chosen from Music Express online for their links to the Science curriculum, and pupils develop skills in listening, composing and considering structure of musical pieces.</p> <p>In Year 6, pupils follow units of the Music Express Online curriculum for most of the year. They continue to develop their skills of composition, listening and learn about harmony and syncopation. In the second half of term 3, they work as a year group towards a play performance</p> <p>In addition to this, each year group focus on a particular composer . They learn about the composer and their music.</p> <p>Each week, a 15 minute singing assembly is taken by the music co-ordinator. During this assembly, there is a focus on the musical elements. Also, music from different genres and times is introduced. The pupils learn/practice the hymn that will be sung in the following week.</p> <p>The entry music for worship is introduced at this assembly. On a Tuesday, pupils are invited to play instruments as entry music. There is also a tradition to share musical skills at the beginning of class assemblies when parents are watching. In the autumn and summer terms, a music celebration gives children who learn instruments in and outside school an opportunity to play in front of the rest of the school, and their parents.</p> <p>Violin, guitar and piano lessons are offered in school by peripatetic teacher. Rocksteady offer opportunities for children to be part of a band, and performances are arranged at least once a year.</p> <p>The Get Playing project, offered by the Hertfordshire Music Service, offers oboe playing in the upper years of the school. After 5 free lessons, the instrument can be borrowed for children who would like to carry on playing. In the spring term, Year 4 are invited to play in a choir, which will perform at the summer term’s music celebration.</p>	
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