

Curriculum

For several years, Ardley Hill has used the Music Express scheme of work. This scheme has allowed children to develop the skills of listening, singing and composing as the children are exposed to a wide variety of music from different genres, cultures and time periods.

Although music at Ardley Hill is taught separately to topic, and does not tie in with the school's following of the creative curriculum, the units of music express follow different themes.

In Key Stage One, the themed units are in groups of three lessons and the themes covered include toys, underground, machines, number, seasons, travel, water and ourselves.

Lower Key Stage Two's units also come in groups of 3 lessons and focus on various themes such as time, food and drink, speaking French, China, the human body, singing Spanish and recycling.

When the children arrive in Upper Key Stage 2, the themed units are six lessons long and are themed around topics including our community, the solar system, keeping healthy and life cycles.

The lessons have clear links to other subject areas in the primary curriculum and have key musical vocabulary clearly laid out appropriately for each lesson. Key terms such as pitch, tempo, dynamics and beat are all clearly explained; enabling all teachers to teach music easily and effectively, regardless of their own personal ability.

Some Music Express lessons involve musical instruments and the school has got two well-stocked trollies with various different percussion instruments on. Additionally, some classrooms have their own sets of instruments such as xylophone and glockenspiels, inherited from other schools.

Aims and Objectives

Our aim is for children leaving Ardley Hill to have had an extensive grounding in listening, singing and composing and the opportunity to build upon their skills, knowledge and enjoyment of different kind of music year on year.

Ardley Hill Academy Music Policy 2018

Elliott Hodges

**Music Leader 2017-
2018**



Assessment

Assessment of music takes place half termly using Classroom Monitor. The data is tracked and analysed and feedback is given to teachers. Leaders and staff conduct learning walks, questionnaires and planning scrutinies throughout the year to further assess. Children are sometimes involved in small group performances in music lessons which allows for self-assessment and, when appropriate, peer assessment.

Projects and concerts.

In October 2017 the whole school took part in a CD recording with each class recording a song to form part of a CD which was sold to parents. The theme was harvest and it tied in with the school's annual harvest concert. The concert is held at a local Baptist church and is open to grandparents of the children. All children from years 1 to 4 attend and take part in this concert.

In the past few years, children in Key Stage 2 have had the opportunity to be involved in various concerts, alongside other primary school children from around the country. These have been organised under various projects such as: Sing up, Voice in a million and Play out. At times, the school has also been involved with concerts at the Grove Theatre, a local theatre in Dunstable. Additionally, the school also took part in the writing of a brand new Christmas song, to which several local schools contributed. All the participating schools came together at the Grove Theatre to record the song.

At various times, children in different year groups have had the opportunity to learn instruments such as the guitar, which has formed the basis of their music lessons.

The future of music at Ardley Hill

The wider use of music in school life should be explored more as teachers continue to explore how music can be used as part of school life. Several teachers now play music in the background of lessons such as extended writing and this helps children to focus.

Additionally, music around the classroom environment will be explored more. While it may not be appropriate or practical for every class to have a music display, key musical vocabulary around the room should prove helpful during music lessons, encouraging the teachers to use the vocabulary and help the children with learning it.