



We are Musicians

At Woodland, we believe that all children can develop a life-long love of music.

We aspire to increase children's self-confidence, creativity and imagination by providing opportunities for self-expression.

Intent

At Woodlands, we aim to help every child develop a deep understanding of music and a strong sense of their own musical identity. Our intention is for pupils to experience all areas of music, including listening, appraising, performing and composing. As they take part in these experiences, we want their confidence to grow so that they feel secure in seeing themselves as musicians. We believe that music is for everyone. It is not only about learning an instrument but also about recognising music as an important part of life and of cultures across the world. We want children to understand that music is a powerful form of expression that can lift our mood, calm us or help us reflect. Music can be enjoyed alone and can also bring people together, building teamwork, cooperation and communication when children perform as a group.

Above all, our intent is for music to be a joyful experience. It should feel like a celebration that is exciting, creative and fun for every child.

Implementation

At Woodlands, we use the Oak National Academy Music curriculum, developed in collaboration with Bristol Beacon, to deliver a high-quality music education. Through carefully sequenced units of learning, pupils develop their musical knowledge, skills and understanding progressively throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, while meeting all requirements of the National Curriculum.

We believe that music enriches every aspect of life. It has the power to inspire, connect and bring joy, and we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation of music in all our pupils, regardless of their background or experience.

Music lessons are supported by high-quality teaching resources, including demonstration videos, lesson plans, assessment materials and engaging interactive resources. These support both specialist and non-specialist teachers in delivering lessons that are exciting, accessible and challenging for all learners. Throughout their time at Woodlands, children are given opportunities to sing, listen, play, perform, compose and evaluate music. We encourage pupils to explore music as listeners, performers and creators, developing both confidence and creativity.

Music is taught from Year 1 to Year 6. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children experience music through continuous provision and planned activities, following the Expressive Arts and Design area of learning within the EYFS framework.

Each year, one year group takes part in Whole Class Ensemble Teaching, giving pupils the opportunity to learn and perform on a musical instrument. Instruments vary from year to year and may include ukuleles, steel pans and other percussion or tuned instruments. We also offer additional instrumental tuition through peripatetic music teachers, with paid guitar and keyboard lessons available for pupils across Key Stages 1 and 2.

As a school, we come together for weekly singing assemblies, where children learn new songs, develop their singing skills and listen to a wide range of musical styles and genres.

Music plays an important role in our school community and celebrations throughout the year. During the winter term, children participate in festive performances, including concerts at the local church and Christmas performances for parents and families. In the summer term, our Year 6 pupils showcase their talents through an end-of-year production that incorporates music, singing and performance.

Through these varied opportunities, we aim to ensure that every child experiences the enjoyment, creativity and sense of achievement that music can bring.

Impact

Children leave Woodlands feeling engaged with music and confident to continue their learning. They develop increasing knowledge and confidence and are inspired by the work of other musicians and composers.

Throughout their time at Woodlands, children experience a well-planned and coherent curriculum that helps them build a broad understanding of different cultures, languages and musical traditions. They develop lasting knowledge of musicians and composers they have studied and are able to apply the musical skills they have been taught in their own creative work. By the time they move on from Woodlands, pupils will have a rich and varied foundation of musical knowledge and skills that will support them throughout their lives.