

Curriculum statement for the teaching and learning of Music

At Inspire Academy Primary School, our curriculum is carefully planned, tailored, progressive and aspirational. It ensures learning that contextualises, addresses cultural deficit and gaps in knowledge and experience, and that ultimately equips our children for the next stage of education and for life beyond.

Intent

At Inspire Academy, we believe that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. Our music curriculum, aligned with the Kapow scheme, aims to:

- Foster a life-long love of music by exposing pupils to diverse musical experiences and igniting a passion for singing, composing, and performing.
- Build children's musical skills sequentially, including listening, appraising, performing, improvising, and composing, with a strong understanding of musical vocabulary.
- Develop self-confidence, creativity, and a sense of achievement through music.
- Celebrate inclusivity and cultural diversity by exploring music from different times, places, and traditions.
- Support wider curriculum links and personal development, such as teamwork, self-discipline, and emotional expression.

Delivery and Structure

Music is taught weekly through the Kapow Primary spiral curriculum, ensuring progression and revisiting of key concepts throughout each key stage.

Lessons are delivered by class teachers using Kapow's high-quality video, audio, and planning resources, supporting teacher confidence and subject knowledge.

Each unit of work builds knowledge and skills across performing, composing, listening, and appraising, in line with the National Curriculum. Clear progression pathways are mapped across year groups, allowing for skill development in pitch, rhythm, notation, improvisation, and musical understanding.

Resources and Learning Opportunities

A wide range of instruments is used, including body percussion, untuned and tuned percussion (e.g. glockenspiels), and digital music-making tools. Children explore music from different cultures, genres, and historical contexts to build a broad and inclusive understanding of music.

Use of musical notation is introduced and developed appropriately through each key stage, supporting both traditional and creative composition.

Kapow's video-led demonstrations allow children to access high-quality modelling of instrumental techniques and vocal work.

Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

Whole-class instrumental tuition is provided in some year groups (e.g. percussion, ukulele), supporting ensemble skills and musical fluency. Pupils regularly perform within the classroom and in wider contexts such as school assemblies, concerts, and seasonal productions. Enrichment is offered through extracurricular activities such as school choir, musical clubs, and links with local music services or visiting musicians. Cross-curricular links are made with subjects such as English (e.g. song writing), PSHE (e.g. self-expression), and history/geography (e.g. music of different cultures and eras).

PUPIL VOICE

Pupils express a genuine enjoyment of music and speak confidently about their learning experiences.

They can articulate what they have learned using appropriate musical vocabulary.

Children show enthusiasm for performances, extra-curricular opportunities, and listening to a wide range of musical genres.

Feedback from pupils shows increased confidence in creative expression and performance.

EVIDENCE IN KNOWLEDGE

Pupils demonstrate a secure understanding of musical concepts such as pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, structure, and notation.

They can identify instruments, genres, and musical features from a variety of cultures and traditions.

Key vocabulary and theoretical knowledge are retained over time and built upon year by year.

Assessment and questioning during lessons show clear understanding of how music is constructed and appreciated.

EVIDENCE IN SKILLS

Children show progression in practical musical skills including singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, composing, and improvising.

Performances show increasing accuracy, expression, and confidence as pupils move through the school. Pupils apply their skills in a range of contexts, including solo and group work, with growing independence. Use of notation and musical symbols becomes increasingly fluent and meaningful.

BREADTH AND DEPTH

Pupils experience a wide range of musical styles, traditions, and historical periods, ensuring cultural breadth.

Music learning is enriched through instrumental tuition, cross-curricular projects, and extra-curricular activities.

Children revisit key concepts over time, allowing for deepening understanding and mastery.

The curriculum provides opportunities for children to explore, develop, and refine their skills beyond the expected standard.