

Positional Statement for Music – December 2020

Music is highly valued at Rook's Nest Academy. Most pupils are working at National or Exceeding in music. Children who are exceeding are given opportunities to play instruments within a lesson and perform in front of the class. Outside audiences are not allowed in school at the moment due to the pandemic. Some Year 6 children take part in after-school choir. In addition to this, there are some children who have one to one or small group lessons on their chosen instrument. These include piano, drums, keyboard, flute, clarinet, violin, trumpet and guitar. Some of these children take exams on their instrument. A company called RockSteady visits school once a week to deliver half-hour band lessons (keyboard, drums, electric guitar, vocals) and 21 children from Years 2 to 6 take part in this.

Normally, there is a range of opportunities to perform music in the academy: weekly achievement assemblies; twice-yearly talent concerts; class assemblies; Harvest Festival and carol service. However, due to current restrictions, this is not possible. Instead, plans are being made to film children performing as a class, small groups and individually to put on the school website.

Generally, coverage of music is good in all year groups. Nursery and Reception children have regular access to music; Reception and Year 1 are taught a weekly half-hour music lesson, and Years 2-6 are taught a weekly 40 minute music lesson as part of a carousel. Music is taught by the specialist teacher or an HLTA (who has a good knowledge of the subject), using a range of resources: Music Express, Music In Action, Sing Up, BBC Ten Pieces, and also other music that fits with certain topics. Music sometimes does not lend itself to certain topics, but wherever possible (and if it is meaningful), music will be linked to the topic. Throughout the year, each class is taught to play two musical instruments for a half-term, one tuned and one untuned. These include bucket drums, xylophones, glockenspiels, rhythm cups, bamboo tamboo, ukuleles, recorders (not currently, due to pandemic) and ocarinas (not currently, due to pandemic). Children revisit instruments twice throughout their primary school years, building on their skills.

A small amount of evidence of music can be seen in music folders, with "I can" statements, but most music evidence is in videos, which are on the cloud in separate class folders. Videos are taken at the end of each half term.

Overall, class teachers do not feel confident teaching music and prefer the specialist teacher to plan and deliver music lessons. Children enjoy music, which can be evidenced by the music questionnaires completed by all children and the number of children learning musical instruments (71).

