

Music

An early start in Music often becomes a life-long passion. From singing or playing an instrument, to writing music and performing, children are given the opportunity from their early school days in Nursery to enjoy a variety of musical activities and structured music lessons. Young children are often drawn to music before other ways of communicating and enjoy singing and dancing to familiar songs. A love of rhyme and rhythm is built on through continuous access to instruments and music in provision through the Early Years and daily 'sing and rhyme time' is timetabled daily from Nursery to Year 2. From Year 1, we follow the Music Express scheme as a planning tool to ensure full National Curriculum coverage and a wide variety of experiences.

Children in Year 4 also have the opportunity to participate in learning how to play a musical instrument. At the current time this is Recorder at Cavendish and Ukulele at Knowleswood.

Practising and performing music is a valued experience at Cavendish and Knowleswood due to how it can develop self-esteem, team work and resilience. We are always proud of the children who choose to take up a musical hobby outside of school and are keen to bring their talent into school however we can.

Learning Opportunities

Music lessons at Cavendish and Knowleswood are planned using Music Express but we consider the starting points of our children and their confidence levels. Teachers deliver the Music lessons. Activities are carried out as a whole class, in small groups and independently. Both schools have a range of musical instruments and resources to use during music lessons depending on the focus of the unit. Any written work is saved in a class file for the children to look back on for prior learning and ideas.

Progression

Music Express sets out learning in Music in a progressive way that ensures all aspects of the Music curriculum are covered creatively and with opportunities for performance and achievement. Elements of Music lessons across each unit are: Singing, Playing Instruments, Improvising/Exploring, Composing, Listening and Appraising. Lessons comprise of sections of focussed learning that explore these elements and build on from previous learning, composing or practise.

Assessment

Children begin at different starting points in Music depending on their experience and engagement in the subject. Teachers assess children's knowledge, understanding and skills in music through observations of children working and demonstrating their skills through performance or practice. Feedback is given verbally and children's understanding is recorded through assessment sheets at the end of each unit.