

Subject Leader Report: Music



'Our Vision is for every child to love learning, be compassionate and achieve now and in the future. Working together with our communities, we will give our children roots to grow and wings to fly.'

Our Aims in...

At Portsdown we understand the importance of teaching a broad and balanced curriculum to all children and giving the children foundations that will support them throughout their life, both in school and out of school. The Music curriculum here at Portsdown covers a wide range of themes and topics across many decades, allowing the children to make links with other subjects such as History and Art. The children are given the opportunity to use their voices, with increasing control as they progress through the school, play a range of instruments and they begin to compose their own music within KS2, but are also taught to listen and appraise a range of different genres. The music curriculum is important to our children here at Portsdown as it gives them the opportunity to express themselves and learn new skills in a practical way.

Substantive and disciplinary knowledge

Substantive knowledge in music is based on the developing knowledge of the nine interrelated dimensions of music. All musical learning is built around the interrelated dimensions of music.

Substantive: Substantive knowledge focuses on what the children need to know to develop as musicians. The main focus for substantive knowledge is the inter-related dimensions of music and involves lots of practise and rehearsal of the skills learnt. The curriculum covers a wide range of musical genres, styles and composers across a long period of time using these.

Disciplinary: Disciplinary knowledge focuses on how the inter-related dimensions of music are used when singing, improvising and composing as well as performing. Children work both on their own and in groups to achieve a desired outcome using the inter-related dimensions of music.



Planning and Teaching

Music is taught weekly across four out of six terms in all year groups at Portsdown, by a mixture of both Teachers and Teaching Assistants. Music is delivered through the use of the scheme Kapow, however in some year groups, the teachers use their own musical strengths to adapt the way in which they teach Music to offer more into the curriculum. There is a

vocabulary progression document available to all staff which starts in Reception through to Year 6. As well as the teaching from Kapow, staff have access to a wide range of instruments to support their teaching. Although the scheme ranges from Year R to Year 6 and does not have units specifically for Nursery, our Nursery have a wide range of instruments within their provision and also have access to the instruments in school and use these, along with other resources such as their voices, to allow the children to explore and express ideas through Music. Each year group has a planned music workshop provided by Portsmouth Music Hub, providing different taught skills from a music specialist.

Assessment

In class, the teachers are continually monitoring the progress of the children and can adapt lessons to suit the identified needs. The teachers are able to go back to previously taught lessons and use elements to support the learning of the children dependent on their needs. This ensures that all children are able to access the curriculum in a way suitable to their needs. Teachers are beginning to use videos as a tool for assessment. Towards the end of last year we introduced the use of the Kapow assessment tool, however it was felt that this did not give teachers the assessment information they needed to make accurate judgements. Throughout this year, the subject leader will look in to the best tool for assessment as there are currently inconsistencies within this.

Monitoring the Quality of Teaching and Learning

The monitoring of Music is done in a number of ways at Portsdown. Within Music, we believe that the children should be developing their musical ability through voice and practical experiences, therefore the key monitoring that takes place within Music is through talking to the children. SLT talk to children from a range of year groups to allow them to give their own views on what they have been learning, how the lessons are taught and what they enjoy / dislike about their lessons. Learning walks are also carried out throughout the school, in which Senior Leaders are able to see how the content of the Music curriculum is being delivered in different year groups. Feedback is then given to the subject leader who can act upon the comments and suggestions given from pupil interviews and learning walks. Teacher feedback is also always welcomed.

Wider Enrichment Opportunities

- At Portsdown we have a wide range of tuned / un-tuned instruments in which all year groups have access to. These are now regularly used in class.
- Pompey in the Community run a Makaton Choir for KS2. The children have had the opportunity to perform at Fratton Park and at Gunwharf Quays.
- Children in both KS1 and KS2 take part in a singing assembly once a week and listen to a range of genres when entering and exiting daily assemblies.

All year groups take part in a Music workshop run by Portsmouth Music Hub, focusing

- on different skills and for some, different instruments.

- Year 1 and 2 will both be attending Infant Voices Festival in March, run by Portsmouth Music Hub.

Targets for 2024-2025

- Assessment: Subject leader to discuss with SLT the best way forward for assessment in music.
- Inventory update – a check of all the instruments in our school. Check they are all in good condition. Is there anything else that might be useful for music lessons? (Check with teachers).
- Look into different links with other areas of the curriculum. Is there a way we can incorporate music into everyday school life a little more? Can parents be involved more?

For the 2025-2026 targets, please see the music development plan.