

Music at Icen Primary Academy



"The power of music can't be underestimated. It's what makes us human beings, it's what makes us nations; it's what makes us a great civilization. We cannot forget that ever."

Marin Alsop – first female conductor of The Last Night of the Proms



Intent

Music is essentially a practical subject which should be enjoyed by all. From an early age children have an awareness of rhythm, pitch and sounds around them and these are developed on entry to Icen Academy in EYFS. Our music curriculum inspires pupils to develop a love of music, increasing their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Our music specialist at Icen Primary Academy incorporates teaching of music with class topics where possible to fully immerse all pupils into the musical experience, encouraging them to perform, compose, listen and appraise. In addition, and with the inception of the Model Music curriculum, long term plans have been audited to include extra features from the non-statutory curriculum such as adding in whole class Ocarina sessions.

Implementation

Music education is delivered through a structured, engaging and progressive approach that includes singing, playing instruments, composing and listening to diverse musical styles. Lessons are designed to be enjoyable and accessible to all children, regardless of their prior experience or ability; they actively participate in music-making through singing, playing instruments (including body percussion and vocals), composing and movement.

We are proud to house a well-equipped, dedicated music space which fosters musical exploration and learning. Music lessons are typically 30 minutes weekly plus a whole-school Singing Assembly as well as additional opportunities to rehearse and perform music for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer Shows.

Our spiral-based Music curriculum gives all children the opportunity to progress with instrumental teaching on a whole-class basis: we provide lessons on ocarinas, glockenspiels, African drums, ukuleles and Steel Pans. In addition, Beech Class enjoy a term of class-based violin tuition each year delivered by the Norfolk County Music Service.

Extra-Curricular opportunities include our Ukulele Club run by a specialist who comes to us from the Thetford Music Project; our Steel Band rehearses weekly and often plays out in the community. For example, at the Hockwold D-Day celebrations and at the Brandon Christmas Light Switch-on.

Impact

Music education plays a vital role in the holistic development of pupils at Icen Primary Academy. Through a rich and inclusive music curriculum, children develop not only musical skills but also essential life competencies such as creativity, collaboration, confidence and emotional expression.

Music enhances cognitive development, particularly in areas such as language, memory and mathematical reasoning; it provides a powerful outlet for self-expression and emotional regulation. Singing, composing and performing help children build resilience and develop a sense of identity and belonging.

Through exposure to diverse musical traditions, pupils gain a deeper understanding of global cultures and histories. Collaborative music-making fosters empathy, teamwork, and respect for others. Performing in assemblies, concerts and community events builds self-esteem.

Marking and Feedback

Learning and progression in Music is evidenced in our Sharepoint Music Assessment folder which contains sub-folders for each class, half term and lesson to which are added the Learning Objective and informal assessment videos from the beginning and ends of lessons. Where children have produced written work, such as Graphic Notation in Maple and Staff Notation in KS2, this work is scanned in and added to the assessment folders.

A lot of practical music making involves oral feedback as well as peer and self-assessment. The teacher also retains a whole-school lesson-by-lesson spreadsheet detailing children's achievement and informing future planning.

Inclusion

At Icen Primary Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every child can thrive. We adapt teaching and learning to meet the diverse needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our inclusive approach ensures that children receive the support and resources they need to succeed in every aspect of their education.

Our staff work closely with families, external agencies, and specialists to ensure that provision is continually reviewed and refined. We believe that with the right support, every child can achieve their full potential.

Our SEND Information Report is available on our website. Please ask if you would like us to print a copy out.

EYFS

Music is vital in the EYFS curriculum under Expressive Arts and Design, fostering language development, physical coordination, social skills, and cognitive abilities through activities like singing, dancing, and playing instruments. It supports literacy, numeracy and creativity while also

building confidence and a sense of community in young children. Practitioners integrate child-led and adult-led musical experiences, using songs, rhymes, and a range of instruments to create a fun and stimulating learning environment.

In Acorn Class, children sing a 'going home' daily song, attend our weekly whole school singing assembly, perform for Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Summer events. In addition, our children are exposed to all our Music Room has to offer and have taster sessions throughout the year using Steel Pans, African drums, percussion instruments and glockenspiels.

Link to the National Curriculum

[National Curriculum for England: Programmes of Study KS1 and KS2](#)

[Model Music Curriculum: non-statutory guidance](#)

If you require further information, please do email iceniprimary@attrust.org.uk