Music

Intent

At KMS we love music. We want to foster a deep and lasting love of music which will impact on our whole lives. We believe in the importance of creativity and self-expression and we want music at KMS to reflect this. We also want to balance exploration and freedom with musical knowledge and skills so that our children are equipped to compose, perform, listen, appreciate, and communicate our responses effectively.

We have a very inclusive approach at KMS and actively promote music for all children through the development and progression of musical concepts and practices, enabling all children to participate successfully. Where finance is a limiting factor, we pay for extracurricular instrumental lessons, in order to provide opportunities not otherwise available for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. When children leave KMS, they will have enjoyed high quality music teaching and a range of musical experiences preparing them for continued study and enjoyment both in and outside of school.

KMS is a musical community. We love to make music together for our own joy and for the pleasure of other people.

Implementation

At KMS music is delivered through high quality lessons and is woven through the life of the school.

Where possible, we aim to align our Music teaching with topic work. Our plans ensure that children develop key skills and knowledge involving composing, performing, singing, listening and musical history in context. We revisit these areas throughout the key stages to aid children's progression in learning and musicality. We select the most appropriate parts of a published scheme to supplement our lessons. Lessons make reference to the interrelated dimensions of music (IRDM) which include pitch, duration, tempo, texture, timbre, structure, dynamics. Lessons are delivered by class teachers; three year groups have music specialist teachers from within the school.

At KMS, children learn how to play the recorder from the Summer term in Year 3. This continues into Year 4 and is revisited at times in Upper KS2. From Year 4, children are introduced to staff notation and have opportunities to read and write simple music.

Each week the school gathers for singing and music assembly led by the music leads. During these sessions children listen and respond to a range of different musical genres. Children learn how to express themselves musically, consolidating their use and knowledge of the IRDM which they are learning in class. KMS has an ensemble group of musicians, comprising a mix of children who have music tuition in the school and those wanting to play percussion. This group have opportunities to play and accompany the piano for some of the songs during singing assembly. The KS2 choir, which meets weekly also have opportunities to perform or harmonise during these assemblies.

Outside of lessons and singing assembly, children have many opportunities to perform during their time at KMS. Separate nativities are performed by Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Each year group at KS2 perform a special play or service once a year. Currently, these are Easter for year 3, a show for year 4. Harvest for year 5, Leavers play for year 6. In addition, every class includes singing in their class assemblies to school and parents.

The Choir take part in a Festival of Voices, rehearsing and performing with a professional Music Director and live band to parents.

Children are able to receive private or group instrumental tuition from peripatetic teachers, and assemblies are held to encourage uptake of lessons. All Pupil Premium children from Year 5 are offered free tuition. All children who learn instruments are invited to perform in a Musical Extravaganza to an audience of school and parents three times a year. Choir and ensemble also perform at these events as well as at school fairs.

As part of our musical community, children also learn to listen to and respond to music during whole class Latin and Ballroom dance lessons. Once a year, during International Week children get the opportunity to listen to and take part in workshops involving different forms of live music, from external musicians. In the past, these have included a Marimba player, African drumming, Indian Workshop and Caribbean Steel Band.

Impact

We are a singing school- singing in lessons, together as a whole school, with parents at times, and as staff.

The joy of singing and making music together each week is evident in our school.

We love performing music to others, with our many assemblies, shows, and termly Extravaganzas.

Our pupils show progress in music and develop technical ability throughout their school experience.

Children at KMS learn to play the recorder and continue to use it during KS2.

Our children are taught staff notation and use this knowledge to play simple tunes.

We enjoy the freedom to play and experiment with instruments to make compositions.