

Music at Bishops'

The Vision (or intent...)



As with all things at Bishops', we want to provide every child with experiences and opportunities to learn which help them to **'live fully'**. Music is right there at the heart of being alive as a human, used to cheer us up, to comfort, to celebrate, to worship, to express our feelings and to be creative and social. It's also there for fun, and learning musical instruments and rhythm helps to develop children's listening and their motor skills. And it's a universal language to learn – both

aurally and also the written language of notation which frees children to transfer skills from instrument to instrument and to vocal scores.

At Bishops', we don't want to just teach children music for their primary years, we want them to be enthused to take it up for life.

How Music is taught (or implemented)?



Curriculum Music Teaching from EYFS upwards teaches pupils to read music and to play instruments [glockenspiels and untuned percussion in FS, Ocarinas in Year 1, and Recorders in Year 2 (these sessions led by Mrs Child).



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Love as God Loves You and Let Your Light Shine!'*



In KS2 every pupil learns violins in Year 3 and Toots – a kind of flute – in Year 4.



They also learn to appreciate music played to them and to create their own music together. Each week there are singing assemblies where children learn to sing – from simple songs in KS1 to rounds and part songs in harmony in KS2. In these assemblies in KS2 they also learn to appreciate performances of music from the classical and jazz repertoire, and learn aspects of the history behind the pieces. History and Geography topics are frequently supported by music from the contexts of the topic (see Curriculum Progression document), and the music of worship is at the heart of our school's Christian experience in services.

Where we can, we introduce children to performing artists and broaden their cultural understanding, such as the Caribbean Steel Pans during our Performing Arts Week in 2020.



Every child enjoys performance opportunities every year in our Christmas Musical Productions, and Year 2 and 6 perform musicals in the summer term as well.

Every child also enjoys live musical theatre performances at Christmas and in the summer term, produced by travelling theatre

companies, and introducing pupils to classical stories such as *The Secret Garden* (July 2022).



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What else is special about music at Bishops'?

We are very proud of our **School Choir**. Frequently numbering over 60 pupils (in 2022, almost 100), the choir performs annually in aid



of Barnardo's at the Royal Albert Hall (this year for the second time singing alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra). Other annual concerts are at the O2 with Young Voices, Brentwood Cathedral at their Christmas Concert for Catholic Schools and at Chelmsford Civic

Theatre for their Music Festival. They have got into the finals of the Rotary Chelmsford School Choirs Competition twice, and sung several times with the University Choir, the Anglia Singers.

There is a small **School Band** and a **String Group**, and the school supports pupils who wish to **learn individually** through a team of peripatetic teachers. We are insistent that this is available to all pupils, irrespective of ability to pay.



Children also benefit from the opportunities given by Essex Music Services, such as the Year 5 Sing-Up celebration, where they sang with a live band.



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What is the *Impact* of all this?

We know that some of our pupils go on to perform great things on the national or international stage, that many choose Boswells as their secondary school for its reputation for performing arts, and that many of our pupils learn instruments and reach good standards for their Royal College of Music or Stave House Exams (endorsed by the West London College of Music).



Our school attracts parents/ carers and therefore pupils who have an interest in the broad creative curriculum we offer, which includes music. Many of our SEN/ disadvantaged pupils find in music a therapeutic and self-esteem enhancing experience and skill.

We also know that our pupils have been taught the distinctive skills, language and notation of music which they will be able to use throughout their lives and that the musical experiences they have had at Bishops' will give them a life-long love of music if they wish to continue this journey.



And.....our staff also benefit from musical experiences, such as this singing workshop provided on a team-building day October 2022.

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