

Case study:

Ramsbury Primary School



A primary school with a very high uptake of peripatetic lessons in a broad range of disciplines and multiple instrumental ensembles

Music Cluster: Marlborough and Pewsey

Ramsbury Primary School is a local authority maintained school in the village of Ramsbury near Marlborough. There are currently 196 pupils on roll. The catchment area includes contrast between areas of deprivation and areas of affluence, with approximately 15% of pupils transferring to independent schools at the end of key stage 2.

The Music Subject Lead at Ramsbury Primary School is Sian Haynes, a music specialist and former secondary Head of Music who has been at the school for fourteen years.

How is this school addressing the 7 key features of high-quality music provision outlined in the National Plan for Music Education?

1 Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1–3

Curriculum music is taught for an hour a week across key stages 1 and 2. Although this was already the case across most of the school, the Music Subject Lead formalised this in 2021 when she rewrote the curriculum and instigated a programme of whole class ensemble teaching for Years 2 to 6.

Curriculum teaching is mainly delivered by class teachers. Whole class ensemble teaching is in addition to the one hour per week of curriculum music and is delivered by class teachers in some year groups and peripatetic teachers in others. The school claims Wiltshire Music Connect First Access subsidies to support this teaching. Pupils learn recorder in Years 2 and 3, cornet in Year 4, and ukulele in Year 5, with Year 6 pupils learning keyboard within their curriculum lessons. Class teachers receive CPD from the Music Subject Lead to support them with aspects of the music curriculum that can be challenging for non-specialists to teach, such as composition. The Music Subject Lead has also planned blocks of learning for all year groups to support the CPD of non-specialist teachers.

The Music Subject Lead delivers a whole-school singing assembly every week.

During a recent Ofsted inspection the school chose a deep dive in music, which contributed to both quality of education and personal development being graded as outstanding.



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2 Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice

Peripatetic teachers deliver lessons on piano, guitar, drum-kit, strings, woodwind, brass and voice. Some are Wiltshire Music Connect Associates and others are private teachers. The school is keen for pupils to have access to all disciplines so if a child wants to learn an instrument that they are unable to find a peripatetic teacher to teach at the school, such as oboe or bassoon, they are signposted to opportunities outside of school. All key stage 2 pupils are encouraged to take up an instrument following their year of whole class ensemble teaching.

Uptake is very high, with 70 per cent of key stage 2 pupils having lessons. Parents pay for these lessons but Pupil Premium funding, the school's own funding and Wiltshire Music Connect tuition subsidies are used to support those who are eligible. The Music Subject Lead has set a target to engage all key stage 2 pupils on the SEND register in one-to-one instrumental lessons, and this target has almost been reached. Pupils with SEND are deliberately targeted and encouraged to have lessons and are supported financially.

3 A school choir and/or vocal ensemble; and

4 A school ensemble/band/group

The Music Subject Lead is released from class on a Friday afternoon in order to lead a variety of ensembles: a choir for Year 5 and 6, an orchestra, and a jazz band. Much of the music for the instrumental ensembles is written or arranged by the Music Subject Lead so that parts are tailored to pupils' needs. Having rehearsals during school hours has a very positive impact on numbers taking part; 80 per cent of pupils in Years 5 and 6 sing in the choir.

5 Space for rehearsals and individual practice

The choir and instrumental ensembles rehearse in the hall, where there is a piano and a drum-kit. Ramsbury Primary School also has a purpose-built block which contains two rooms that are used for music, with ten sets of keyboards set up in one of these rooms. This provides a space for both peripatetic lessons and curriculum music lessons.



6 A termly school performance

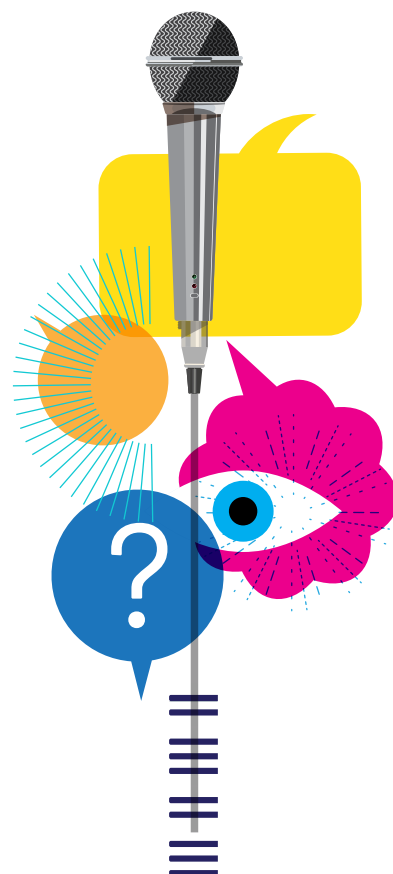
At Harvest, Christmas and Easter, all pupils sing in a service and performance at a local church. This is attended by parents, with the orchestra and choir also performing. At Christmas each class is also involved in another performance, with key stage 1 taking part in a nativity play and each key stage 2 class giving a different musical performance to parents. Class assemblies showcase singing and instrumental playing, and the school's instrumentalists also perform solos at the beginning of assemblies.

There is a Summer Concert with the choir, orchestra, jazz band and soloists. In addition, the Music Subject Lead organises an in-school Eisteddfod every year, with an adjudicator awarding certificates with feedback. Pupils are also involved in community performances, such as singing at retirement homes. The orchestra plays for school fêtes and Year 6 put on a production at the end of the year. The Music Subject Lead is released from class to lead these performances.

The school also participates in performances through the Marlborough and Pewsey Music Cluster.

7 Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Pupils have regular opportunities to see each other perform, as all performances mentioned in the previous section are attended by the rest of the school. Outside performers are brought in where possible. The school accesses live stream performances by professional musicians such as the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The school also participates in live performances organised by Wiltshire Music Connect or the Marlborough and Pewsey Music Cluster.



What support does this school access from Wiltshire Music Connect?

- The school accesses Challenge and Support visits for Music from Wiltshire Music Connect's Cluster Coordinator
 - Staff from the school attend Marlborough & Pewsey Music Cluster meetings
 - Pupils from the school participate in Marlborough & Pewsey Music Cluster Projects
 - Wiltshire Music Connect Associates provide music tuition at the school
 - Disadvantaged pupils from the school access support with the cost of music tuition through Wiltshire Music Connect
 - The school accesses funding from Wiltshire Music Connect to support the cost of First Access (Whole Class Instrumental Tuition)
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What can other schools take away from this case study?

A targeted plan for peripatetic lesson uptake can boost participation

- How could you use your whole class ensemble teaching programmes as a way of encouraging pupils into instrumental or vocal lessons?

Offering lessons to all pupils may not be enough to achieve equity of opportunity; further encouragement or support may be needed for some pupils

- Are there specific groups of pupils you want to engage, e.g. pupils with SEND, to whom you could give targeted support (financial or otherwise)?



www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk
info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk

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