



Music Approach

Angel Oak Academy

At Angel Oak Academy, music is taught in every year group and there is a curriculum in place to ensure a clear progression of musical skills from Nursery up to Year 6. At Angel Oak Academy, we believe that every child is musical. This ethos is shared with the children and all children are expected to develop their musical skills as they progress from year to year.

The music curriculum is divided into five main strands:

- playing
- singing
- listening
- composing
- performing

Music lessons are whole-class sessions, so ensemble skills are developed from an early age. Singing is used as a teaching tool across all year groups and music lessons are very practical, giving the children as much opportunity as possible to practise and develop their music-making.

Early Years

Singing forms the basis of all lessons. Songs with clear actions allow the children to get used to singing and moving in time with each other. A sense of steady pulse is developed in the same way, by encouraging them to clap, tap and walk in time to a song. Percussion instruments are then introduced, also with accompanying songs, and the children sing and play in time with each other.

A range of percussion instruments are explored, and children are encouraged to listen carefully to the different sounds each instrument can make. Listening games are used to help them differentiate between the different sounds and identify the instruments.

The children are introduced to the idea of a conductor and take turns conducting the class. They learn to start and stop together, following the conductor closely and explore playing instruments fast and slow, loudly and softly.

The children listen and move to a wide range of music and are encouraged to comment on what they can hear in the music and what they like or dislike about it. Children are encouraged to share their own experiences of music and songs they may have learnt at home.

Key Stage 1

Singing continues to form the basis of all lessons. The children are introduced more formally to the music skills they developed in Early Years and learn vocabulary such as 'pulse' and 'rhythm'. 'Keeping a steady pulse' becomes integral to all lessons and warm-up activities ensure children practise it every lesson.

Children are taught to sing two-part rounds and canons and start to learn songs with more complicated melodies and longer lyrics. Listening is included in every lesson, with children being asked to listen carefully to particular aspects of music, and to listen carefully to each other's performances.

A wider range of percussion tuned instruments, such as xylophones and glockenspiels, are introduced along with other tuned instruments such as the recorder.

All children start learning to perform, read and write basic rhythms, as well as to identify them by ear. Children will be taken to see musical performances in and out of school.

Key Stage 2

Singing continues to be a key learning tool while children learn to play more instruments, such as the ukulele and the keyboard. The keyboard is also used to teach children basic music theory. All children learn to read treble clef stave notation as well as other types of notation used for different types of music. They also continue to perform, read and write basic rhythms, and to identify them by ear.

Extra-curricular clubs are made available for KS2 children to join if they want to develop their skills still further.

All KS2 children are encouraged to join the KS2 choir, which performs regularly in and out of school. For KS2 children showing extra commitment to music, there is the opportunity to learn the trumpet, trombone and the steel pans.

All children are given the opportunity to watch high-quality music performances in and out of school.