

MUSIC CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Wigginton Primary School prides itself on being a musical school. Music plays a vital role in the everyday life of the school, with all pupils enjoying a rich musical curriculum and a range of musical opportunities which we hope will foster a lifelong enthusiasm for music.



SINGING

Singing is at the heart of the music curriculum and at the heart of the school. We have our own school song, "Whatever we want to learn", composed by ex-pupils using the school ethos as its starting point. Learn

the song here - <https://youtu.be/XM43j57V4lc>

Weekly singing sessions, where they build their singing technique through active warm-ups and exercises and through singing an eclectic mixture of songs, have been suspended for the moment due to coronavirus restrictions. When it resumes, singing is taught by the school's music subject leader, herself a singing specialist with up-to-date training on developing the voice across all age groups. At Wigginton we use an enthusiastic, inclusive approach to singing, where everyone is encouraged to believe in their ability to sing. This leads to excellent singing in assemblies and performances, both as a whole school, or in classes, small groups or solos. The high standard of singing is often commented upon by parents, members of the local community, visitors to school and also teachers at Joseph Rowntree School when pupils move on, taking with them their confidence in and enthusiasm for singing.

FOUNDATION STAGE

Our Early Years team includes several trained musicians and they are skilled at using the natural musical talents of all children to help them develop and enhance learning across the whole curriculum. Songs are used particularly well in maths to help practise concepts and remember facts. Reception children are encouraged to experiment with sounds, both inside with conventional percussion instruments, and outside in their wonderful sound exploration areas. They will learn about concepts such as louder/quieter, faster/slower, with an emphasis on first-hand experience, experimentation, and enjoyment.



KS1 and KS2



Pupils at Wigginton benefit from specialist music teaching throughout KS1 and KS2. Lessons are planned to enhance learning in class topics as well as further musical progress. The skills of listening, playing and composing are developed together, integrating children's musical interests whenever possible. Work on the key musical concepts of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure are developed progressively from Year 1 to Year 6. Learning to read and write musical

notation is part of the curriculum, from graphic scores to conventional musical notation, but singing, playing, composing and improvising are always at the centre of the learning. As well as a range of percussion instruments, pupils are learning to use a range of wild and wonderful objects to practise and develop their musical knowledge this year, from tin cans, plastic bottles and wooden sticks to foam blobs and cardboard cups!



MUSICAL ENHANCEMENT

Class music lessons are only part of the musical menu at Wigginton. Regular enhancement activities take place which give pupils a wider view of music in the community and, looking forward, give them some ideas of possible musical pathways for the future. We have a fantastic relationship with a local care home, with some inspiring visits both to and from the home taking place in previous years. These have been suspended for now due to coronavirus restrictions but we hope to resume these in the future, and to develop our relationship in other ways. Our strong relationship with the performing arts department at Joseph Rowntree School ensures that pupils are encouraged to continue their musical journey as they carry on to the next stage of their education.



WHOLE CLASS INSTRUMENTAL TEACHING

Learning to play an instrument is a valuable skill that helps pupils in so many ways, improving concentration, enthusiasm and engagement in learning as well as the more obvious musical outcomes. Every pupil at Wigginton benefits from 2 terms of whole class strings teaching from a specialist strings teacher in Year 5 and 6, working together as a team and building skills – including specific instrumental technique as well as general musicianship which can be applied to any musical experiences in the future.

MUSICAL EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

SINGSTARS

Wigginton Singstars, a large, inclusive singing group open to any pupil in Years 1-6, are well known in the local community for their enthusiasm and versatility. They are regularly invited to perform at community events, including working in massed inter-generational sings and singing at festive events with brass bands. In March 2020, they made their debut at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre Community Choir Festival, and many Singstars took part in the York Civic Youth Choir performance at the “Light up a Life” service for St Leonard’s Hospice at Christmas 2019. Singstars is not currently running due to restrictions on mixing groups of children, but we hope to resume this fun group as soon as possible.



OTHER MUSICAL CLUBS

Throughout the year, other musical clubs may be offered according to demand, government guidance, and staff availability. Clubs offered in previous years included Singplay leaders, Stomp percussion, recorder group and advanced singing.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS



We have a variety of freelance specialist teachers visiting school each week teaching music lessons individually and in small groups. This year we have seen a record increase in the take up of these lessons as the news is spreading about the positive impact of instrumental learning and the quality of the musicians we have teaching in school. Lessons on offer include piano, woodwind, strings, guitar, brass and voice, with others possibly available on request. (Some lessons are currently only available online outside of school hours due to restrictions.) Where teachers have a full schedule, interested pupils are placed on a waiting list to be fitted in as soon as possible.

Some pupils may be eligible for a York Music Hub bursary to help with individual music lessons – parents should contact Mrs Liversidge for details about this, or any other information on instrumental lessons.

