

Performing Arts Policy

September 2016

1. What is Performing Arts?

Performing Arts (P.A.) is not a Curriculum area, but encompasses elements from many subjects and disciplines in particular, Music, Drama and Dance.

Performing Arts is a vehicle which allows children to use and develop their imagination, as well as enabling them to express a wide range of sentiments and emotions. It helps raise the profile of the school and offers excellent opportunities to all children regardless of their academic/social backgrounds and abilities. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it can help children to understand themselves and relate to others. It encourages active involvement in different forms and helps children to acquire a sense of group identity and togetherness.

William Shrewsbury Primary School believes that Performing Arts provides opportunities for students to:

- develop proficiency as musicians, actors and dancers,
- acquire audience skills such as listening and viewing responsively,
- interpret and present their own or others' work to a range of audiences,
- evaluate the different roles of artists in society such as to entertain, provoke debate or challenge views and perceptions,
- create and critique plays, dances and compositions using a variety of tools and techniques,

- express feelings, ideas, experiences and beliefs in a variety of ways,
- improve coordination, flexibility, agility, strength and fine motor skills
- increase self-discipline, creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment.

Our aims

- For all children to engage, progress, enjoy and express themselves through performance, to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings.
- To encourage pupils to work as individuals and in groups to share performing arts experiences and present their work to others
- Develop an understanding of the role of the performing arts in our community and society (and of different cultures), including as a career
- As a Rights Respecting School, we will cover Article 15: The right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs; Article 29: The right to become the best that you can be.

2. The National Curriculum

Performing Arts is not included as a single subject in the National Curriculum. Therefore, please refer to the subject specific policies for Music, English, P.E. for the relevant programmes of study.

3. School Organisation

Staffing

Performing Arts is taught by class teachers and various members of staff who are specialists in Music, Drama, Physical Education and Dance. Furthermore, William Shrewsbury Primary School welcomes visiting peripatetic teachers and professionals to offer their tuition and expertise through workshops and assemblies. The P.A. coordinator works closely with the Music, P.E. and English Coordinators as well as visiting tutors to ensure there is continuity.

William Shrewsbury is fortunate to have two members of staff who are 'Artists in Residence' - one a playwright and one a composer.

Music

Children are offered Music opportunities within the classroom for forty minutes per week as part of the National Curriculum. They also have the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition through the provision of specialist teachers for stringed, woodwind and brass instruments, and from a freelance musician for drums and classical, acoustic and bass guitar. Extra-curricular clubs are offered such as recorder groups for beginners and improvers and a band.

Instrument Lessons

Instrument lessons are offered within curriculum time to Key Stage 2 children in the following instruments: violin and cello; clarinet, flute and saxophone; trumpet and trombone; electric bass and drum kit (from Y5). All children are invited to audition for the instrument of their choice and are selected on their suitability for that instrument alone. Lessons are taught in small groups ranging from 1

to 6 and for approximately twenty minutes. When children have reached the required standard they are entered into external examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Recorder Group and Acorn Band

The Acorn Band rehearses on a weekly basis during after school throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. The Recorder group meets one lunch time each week during the same terms. William Shrewsbury Primary School is keen to provide opportunities to perform to the school and parents on various occasions, such as the Christmas Carol Service and the Spring Music Concert. The Acorn Band and Recorder group is supported and led by our own specialist music teacher.

Choir

A choir rehearses weekly throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. The choir performs at our Spring concert and also at many concerts as part of our School Trust group. The choir is open to all children in KS2.

Other Opportunities

Burton Music Centre provides all those who play an instrument with musical opportunities through year group and ability specific groups led by their staff, particularly for those playing stringed instruments. Periodically they also bring in groups of players to perform live music for the children. Their orchestras meet at our school on Monday evenings.

Midlands Music Centre, which is responsible for all our brass and woodwind tuition, also operates from our school on Saturdays where children can join their jazz and classical bands. They too bring in groups to perform for the children.

William Shrewsbury Primary School believes that such visits are crucial, not only for pupils' own instrumental development, but also as life enriching experiences and opportunities for all our children that may not otherwise be available to them.

Drama

Drama is not a National Curriculum foundation subject but is included in the English Programme of Study. Drama has many cross curricular links and is an extremely useful tool for improving children's self-esteem, confidence, speaking and listening, and social skills.

Children are offered Drama opportunities within the classroom and also the following: class assemblies and school productions.

Theatre visits are arranged most terms for every year group.

Class Assemblies

Every class from YR to Y6 has the opportunity to include drama within their class assemblies. This can be scripted, mimed or improvised.

School Productions

William Shrewsbury School recognises the importance of school productions and as such, devotes some curriculum time for rehearsals and performances. Productions are organised by class teachers and assistants as well as the leadership team. We have a large number of teachers and TAs who provide valuable expertise and experience for our productions in areas including scenery painting, lighting, sound, make-up and costume design. Productions are arranged for Reception, Years 1 & 2 Lower KS2 and Upper KS2.

Specifically these include:

- Christmas Play performed by Nursery
- Christmas play performed by Year 1
- Christmas play or concert performed by Year 2
- Christmas play performed by Year 3 & 4
- Church Carol Service performed by Years 5 & 6
- Pantomime scenes performed by Year 5 for our KS1 children
- Pantomime performed by our teaching staff for all our TAs, Parent helpers and children.
- Summer Music workshop presented by Years 3 & 4
- Summer Drumming workshops for KS2
- Summer Production performed by Years 5 & 6
- Visit by Year 4 children to Hillfield Home for the elderly, in Stretton, to perform songs from our Summer Production
- End of year performance by Year 2.

In addition, there are many joint Trust performance events.

Dance

Dance plays an important part within the P.E. curriculum and, like Drama, is also accessed within class assemblies and within school productions. During P.E. lessons, children undertake Dance units of work for approximately 14 hours per year.

Artsmark and Arts Award

William Shrewsbury Primary School has been awarded the highest rating of Artsmark Platinum. Artsmark is a national award scheme, managed by the Arts Council England, which recognises schools with a high level of provision in the arts.

The school is now registered as an Arts Award centre, with a member of staff qualified as an Arts Award Advisor for the 'Discover' and 'Explore' awards. Initially, gifted and talented children from Years 5 and 6 will be able to complete the 'Explore' award. By

September 2017 , it should be possible for Years 3 & 4 to complete the 'Discover' award.

4. Planning

As Performing Arts is not a single subject in the National Curriculum, please refer to the subject specific schemes of work for Music, English, P.E. for the relevant medium term plans.

5. Use of Technology

Technology has an important part to play in the Performing Arts. This can range from using recording equipment in music lessons, to utilising radio microphones in productions. Staff often enhance assemblies by designing and using presentation software films using the large whiteboards and projectors, which are in both our halls.

Gifted and talented children taking the 'Explore' Arts Award will be recording all their work online using the Arts Award 'Artbox' app or website both at home and at school.

6. Assessment

Performing Arts is not included as a single subject in the National Curriculum. Therefore, please refer to the subject specific policies for Music, English, P.E. for the relevant assessment criteria.

7. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

The area of Performing Arts has a particular responsibility to include all children regardless of their social or academic background.

Selection for instrumental lessons is taken purely on pupils' suitability for that instrument and age appropriateness and not achievement in other curriculum areas or behaviour

8. Gifted and talented pupils

William Shrewsbury Primary school takes every opportunity to recognise those children who display exceptional talent in the Performing Arts by enabling them to:

- Sing or play solos or duets in the Spring Music Concert and Carol Service
- Take leading roles in the musical productions
- Create their own music and drama to present to others
- Be offered an opportunity to take part in the Arts Awards

9. Resources and Accommodation

Internal resources:

- William Shrewsbury Primary School possesses flexible performance and rehearsal spaces such as two school halls and a music room.
- The New Hall has a large set of portable stage blocks. Performances are enhanced by a set of stage lights, a PA system with mixing desk, a set of radio microphones and an electric piano.
- Curtains are used to enhance the performance area and we also use professionally made backcloths for some productions

- Both the New Hall and the Dining Hall have points for computers and iPods with large, retractable whiteboard screens and projectors.
- The Music room houses many tuned and non-tuned percussion instruments (including a full drum kit) as well a piano. Further pianos can be found in both halls.

External resources:

- Arts organisations are invited into school regularly.
- The school organises visits to experience the arts, as well as art experiences brought to the pupils in school.
- The facilities at our local parish church, St. Mary's, are used to perform our Upper Junior Christmas Carol Service, which we consider to be a vital link with our local community.
- Advantage is taken of other local community activities, festivals and events to deepen and broaden arts provision in our school.
- Links and partnerships are made with other schools in our Trust, where appropriate.

10. Evaluation

The Performing Arts Policy will be reviewed annually by the Leader of Performing Arts.

Ellen Godfrey September 2016