

KS2 Music Curriculum at Bispham Spencer Academy

Name of School Music Lead: Jo Hutchison

At Bispham Drive Spencer Academy, our KS2 music curriculum is designed to develop confident, expressive and knowledgeable young musicians. Through a carefully sequenced progression of listening, composing and performing skills, pupils build a deep understanding of music from a wide range of genres, cultures and historical periods.

Our Curriculum

Listening

Across KS2, pupils learn to listen with increasing discrimination and musical understanding. They explore how **pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture and timbre** shape musical meaning. For example, in Year 5 pupils learn that *“a slow tempo and a minor key can be used to make music sound sad”* and in Year 6 they explore how *“texture can be created by adding or removing instruments in a piece.”*

They study music from around the world—including South African Gumboot music, Caribbean calypso and South American salsa—developing cultural awareness and stylistic understanding.

Composing

Pupils learn to create music using voices, instruments and technology. They develop skills in **graphic notation, staff notation, rhythmic patterns, motifs, ostinati, loops and chords**. By Upper KS2, pupils confidently improvise and compose multi-layered pieces, using musical vocabulary to justify their creative choices. Pupils learn to *“combine rhythmic patterns into a multi-layered composition using all the inter-related dimensions of music to add musical interest.”*

Performing

Performance is central to music at Bispham Spencer. Pupils develop vocal control, instrumental technique and ensemble awareness. They learn to perform from **graphic notation, letter notation and staff notation**, and by Year 6 can *“perform with accuracy and fluency from graphic and staff notation and from their own notation.”*

Throughout KS2, pupils sing in unison and in parts and play tuned and untuned percussion.

Our Music Curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and in line with the Kapow Scheme.

Wider Musical Opportunities

Music at Bispham Spencer extends far beyond the classroom:

- **School Productions:** All pupils have the opportunity to take part in shows, featuring ensemble singing and opportunities for solos.
- **School Choir:** Our choir performs both in school and within the wider community, giving pupils valuable performance experience.
- **Instrumental Tuition:** An external specialist provides optional lessons in guitar and woodwind, which parents can purchase to further develop their child's musical skills. Our pupil premium children's parents and carers are notified of the entitlement their child has to half price music tuition.
- **Composer & Artist Assemblies:** Regular assemblies introduce pupils to influential composers and musical artists from a wide range of genres, cultures and time periods, broadening their musical knowledge.