

Cromwell Music Scheme Summary

Pupils at Cromwell will have the opportunity to take part in immersive, whole class music sessions with Tameside Music Service. These sessions are designed so that children will learn about music by experiencing sound, song, movement and musical instruments in a fun, engaging, and person-centred environment. Songs and activities have been specifically chosen by tutors at Tameside Music Service to allow children to learn at their own pace, engage in a way that is best for them and to develop communication and expression through music.

Whilst every child, class and department require a slightly different approach and will experience differing outcomes, music sessions in school follow a similar structure with familiar activities to encourage participation and engagement across the school.

Music Session Structure

Greeting

The music session is introduced by a familiar song or activity and everyone has the opportunity to say hello and settle into the session. Children, support staff and tutors can build rapport and get to know each other during this time.

Movement

Children can explore how music can relate to our bodies through movement songs. Children have the space to create their own responses, or copy the teacher. Pupils can also work on musical aspects such as pulse, gross and fine motor skills and expression through dance.

Feature Instruments

Children can experience the sound of a feature instrument such as xylophone, djembe drum, ocean drum or keyboard, taking turns to improvise along with music, or to learn a specific tune, melody or rhythm.

Making Choices

Pupils can choose their favourite instrument, or try something new as they communicate their choice in the most appropriate way for them. Pupils have the chance to learn to play a wide variety of high quality instruments, tuned and un-tuned percussion, guitar, keyboard and more.

Ensemble skills

Children will engage in making music TOGETHER. Tutors will present songs that allow children to play at the same time, take turns and perform solos, or even conduct the class themselves. These activities help to build essential life skills such as turn-taking, listening, working together and enjoying time together.

How this may differ by department

Sensory Department

Children in the sensory department will learn about music by experiencing sound, song and movement. Children will learn how sound is created using instruments and voices, taking part in whole group sessions where participation is encouraged and everyone's contribution is valued and celebrated. Outcomes and objectives are bespoke to each pupil, the music and songs used can centre on the musical interests of the children. Children are given plenty of time to develop their skills in whichever way they choose.

Structured

In a similar way to the sensory department, objectives and outcomes are bespoke to each child and assessed by the music tutor. Pupils are given space and time to respond in their own way and tutors focus is to build rapport to encourage engagement and musical play. The contribution of every child is celebrated, whether that is learning to read music notation, or shaking a tambourine for the first time, every step is valuable and important.

Conceptual

A bespoke approach is continued in the conceptual department. Children may explore more complex musical ideas and language, music history and context. However, the powerful therapeutic nature of music is always at the forefront, providing pupils with space to have fun, enjoy making music with others and develop musical expression. Everybody's contribution is celebrated.

Performance

Every child will have the opportunity to perform, in class for their peers and in front of the school. Music is a valued part of yearly celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas and End of Year celebrations, in which songs and music can play a vital role in helping children to understand concepts and times of year.

Children will also have the opportunity to take part in exciting performance opportunities outside of school in events organised by Tameside Music Service, the Greater Manchester Music Hub and various other organisations.