

Music at St. Fidelis

Music is taught to every child from Nursery to Year 6 by specialist music teachers. Mr Robinson, our music leader provides an exciting and varied music curriculum which stimulates the creative nature of our children and ensures that they receive the very best in musical education.

As well as whole school singing, where the children learn a variety of songs from hymns to more complex part singing, children in Nursery to Year 3 receive specialist music lessons from Mr Robinson focusing on developing the children's understanding and use of the new curriculum's inter-related dimensions of music, namely, pitch, pulse, rhythm, dynamics, texture and tempo, through singing and playing tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

Year 4 children receive high quality whole class lessons on the recorder from a specialist teacher from Bird College and Years 5 and 6 are taught by Mr Robinson the keyboard and steel pans respectively.

Outside of the classroom, there is a thriving Infant and Junior choir who regularly sing at school Masses and end of term concerts and the Junior choir also perform annually at the O2 arena as part of the world famous 'Young Voices' concerts. We instigated and host the annual Bexley Catholic Schools Choral Festival and were worthy winners 3 years ago. The choir also took part in this year's Music for Youth Festival at St. Albans which is the audition stage for the National Schools Prom series at the Royal Albert Hall.

Children from Year 3 upwards have the opportunity to learn a range of orchestral instruments by having individual or small group lessons taught by visiting teachers from Bird College. The children then go on and join the school orchestra and again they perform regularly in concerts, schools Masses and assemblies.

Recently, the junior choir, orchestra, recorder and ukulele players performed at the Royal Festival Hall along with other schools from across Bexley, which gave them yet another wonderful opportunity to showcase their talents.

We are also unique in that we have our very own set of Steel Drums. We currently have 5 steel bands who, like the choirs and orchestra, perform regularly in school, in the local and wider community as well as in the large festivals already mentioned. The steel bands are so popular, not only is there a waiting list to join, when the children leave St. Fidelis, they come back and continue playing!!

The pans and junior choir took part in their very first concert tour to Paris 2 years ago, performing at Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower and this year toured the North

East of England giving two very successful and well received concerts. In between these trips, children in Years 3 to 6 have auditioned for and performed 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' and the musical 'Smike' based on the Charles Dickens 'Nicholas Nickleby' story.