Firs Primary School

Updated: September 2026

Music

Firsy Foundation

Intent

At Firs Primary, we are committed to creating a universal language through music. We are dedicated to providing every child with a high-quality music education that engages, inspires and develops a love of music, nurtures musical talent, and builds self-confidence, giving each child a sense of achievement.

Through our carefully planned curriculum, children have opportunities to develop their musical vocabulary, perform, listen, evaluate, and explore the inter-related dimensions of music in depth. They are then encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills through a range of wider opportunities both within and beyond the school environment.

Music at Firs not only develops children's knowledge and skills within the classroom but also allows them to explore their passion for music further through our links with Sinfonia Viva, Young Voices, Derby Theatre, Rocksteady, Wider Ops and the Derbyshire Music Partnership. These partnerships ensure that all children, regardless of background, have access to valuable cultural experiences that they may not otherwise encounter.

During music lessons and work with visiting specialists, children are encouraged to develop their creativity and grow in confidence. They are also taught to respect their peers and celebrate the cultural diversity within our school community. Parents are strongly encouraged to support their children by attending and participating in the wide range of musical events and opportunities offered throughout the year.

Implementation

The award-winning music scheme **Charanga** has been carefully chosen to ensure all children at Firs have the opportunity to access and cover the National Curriculum for Music. Charanga provides high-quality planning, key vocabulary for each Key Stage and interactive whiteboard resources, giving both musicians and non-musicians the confidence, knowledge and tools to deliver engaging and progressive music lessons.

Charanga is a flexible scheme that allows staff to adapt learning to meet individual needs, including through its dedicated SEND curriculum. At Firs, we have further tailored the scheme across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 to ensure children build musical knowledge and skills progressively, developing their ability to compose, perform and listen critically to music.

In Year 4, all children take part in the Wider Ops programme, receiving weekly violin lessons. These lessons teach both performance skills and the inter-related dimensions of music. Children then have the opportunity to showcase their talents alongside the Halle/Count me in Orchestra at Derby Arena in July.

Children also have the opportunity to join the school choir and perform at **Young Voices**, gaining valuable performance experience. They can also take part in **Rocksteady** instrumental lessons, developing their musical skills and confidence through playing and performing music.

Music is embedded throughout life at Firs. During singing assemblies, children regularly listen to and appreciate the work of great composers and musicians from a range of historical periods.

Impact

Progress and attainment is monitored through Golden Nugget assessments, pupil and staff voice, lesson observations and analysis of data which is completed on the relevant assessment grid at the end of each topic.

By offering children a curriculum which is tailored to their needs and through work with outside agencies we hope to see that all children, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with SEND have the chance to succeed. These experiences will help build on each child's cultural capital , ensuring that skills which have been learnt have been remembered, therefore allowing for new knowledge bases to be created and built upon year in year out.