

Music at OJS

During this time, to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff we have adapted this subject by taking physical distancing and sharing of resources into account.

The government continue to update and issue guidelines in response to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's scientific experiments around possible risks in an environment where singing or playing brass and wind instruments takes place.

In light of these guidelines, at Overdale we continue to monitor and update our restrictions in line with the UK government's most up to date recommendations around the teaching of music. We:

- ventilate rooms well.
- seat children side by side, facing the same direction.
- avoid large gatherings - school assemblies will take place through invites to Teams conferencing.
- have made the decision to avoid teaching of brass instruments in Year 4 for academic year 2020-2021, instead choosing ukulele as an alternative.
- have made the decision to avoid the teaching of recorder in Year 3 for the academic year 2020-2021, instead choosing blocks of lessons that focus on the composing, transcribing and describing elements of our music curriculum.
- clean hands and surfaces before and after lessons.
- clean instruments before and after use.
- where possible, allocate children the sole use of and responsibility for their instrument (ukulele Year 4).
- encourage teachers to ensure background music when singing in class is at a level which does not encourage performers to raise their voice unduly.
- focus on appreciation of the non-performing elements of music: composing, describing and appreciating different genres.
- use multi-media to bring music to the classroom in lieu of taking children to see live performances at this time.
- ensure that our peripatetic music teachers follow government guidelines in their group/individual lessons.
- keep abreast of updates in regulations and endeavour to adapt lessons/musical performances in accordance .
- unfortunately, are not yet planning any of our usual gatherings in school/at church to celebrate Christmas festivities, but we do hope to be as creative as possible within guidelines and will keep families updated.
- await further guidance on participation in Leicester/shire musical events and performances and will keep families updated.
- encourage families to celebrate, share and enjoy music safely at home.

Ms Keenan