



OfSTED'S VIEW OF MUSIC PROVISION – 2013

Ofsted published a report on Friday 15 November 2013 [Music in schools: what hubs must do – the challenging conversation with schools – November 2013 No.130231] which challenges schools and Music Education Hubs to work together to improve music provision.

The report tackles the issues that continue to exist in schools' whilst recognising *'the significant contribution that music can make to the wider life of each school and to broader school improvement.'*

It was also found that Music Education Hubs working at their very best can challenge and support school leaders to bring the numerous benefits of a good music education to all pupils, not simply the few who choose, or have the resources, to specialise in the subject or on an instrument.

A SUMMARY OF WHAT SCHOOLS NEED TO KNOW

Ofsted states that:

- Music Education Hubs should **expect and secure that all schools engage with Hubs and the National Plan for Music Education.**
- **Music is a demanding academic discipline, developed through exciting practical musical activity.**
- There is work to be done to help school leaders and teachers realise this aspiration; the **music curriculum in most schools lacks depth and rigour.**

A SUMMARY OF WHAT SCHOOLS NEED TO DO

Ofsted states that:

- All school leaders should **ensure that music is regularly taught.**
- Schools should **evaluate their music provision more accurately**, especially in the curriculum.
- Schools and teachers should **ensure that all pupils are introduced to a wide range of music.**
- **Musical learning in schools should go beyond enjoyment and performance**, promoting a wider range of musical knowledge, skills and understanding which stem from 'exciting practical musical activity'.
- Planning across the whole curriculum should have progression at its core and needs to be more cohesive and less atomised. Ofsted warns that:

KEY POINT: *"In primary schools, and at Key Stage 3, the planned curriculum in the schools visited was too often a shallow musical odyssey, with ... units of work on various styles of music [eg. world music, blues, hip hop, rap and pop]. ... it was rare for links to be made between them."*

- **Singing should be developed** through all primary and secondary schools.
- We need **higher expectations at Key Stage 3** and better planning for the development of the knowledge, skills and understanding required in order to better prepare pupils for study at Key Stages 4 and 5.

JUDGING THE QUALITY OF TEACHING AND MUSIC

Ofsted states that:

- Senior leaders in schools should make informed, realistic judgments on the quality of a lesson **based upon musical learning and progress** not non-musical factors.
- Senior leaders should observe and challenge the quality of music education provided by their own and visiting music teachers.
- Even where provision was not strong, senior leaders **frequently over-estimated the quality** of the musical activity in their schools.
- Training and advice for teachers and senior leaders in schools can be provided by their Music Education Hub

KEY POINT: The assessment of music must be **musical** and **appropriate**. *“Elaborate whole-school assessment systems, not tailored to music specifically, disrupted the flow and musical purposes of the lessons.”*

HOW SCHOOLS CAN ACHIEVE THIS

Ofsted suggests:

- Make better use of the provision and funding provided through Music Education Hubs.
- Expect Music Education Hubs to provide them with expert advice and challenge and take action on this.
- Evaluate their musical provision more accurately, especially teaching and the curriculum, and seek training and advice as needed.
- Senior leaders should observe and challenge the quality of music education provided by their own and visiting music teachers.

WHAT DERBYSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB CAN DO TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

From September 2012 music education in England has been supported by local Music Education Hubs. This is an action point from ‘The Importance of Music – A National Plan for Music Education’ (NPME) launched November 2011 by Michael Gove and Ed Vaizey.

Music Education Hub funding is designed to ‘support and augment’ schools’; core funding for music in the school curriculum still comes through the DfE directly.

To support you and your school, we can:

- **Meet with you to evaluate the quality of music provision in your school both in classroom teaching and with external music providers.**
- **Conduct observations or joint observations of music teachers in your school to ensure that musical learning, understanding and progress are clearly recognised.**
- **Work with your teachers to evaluate the quality of the music curriculum and how your school engages with the Derbyshire Music Education Hub.**

Derbyshire City & County Music Partnership is the lead partner of the **Derbyshire Music Education Hub** serving schools in both the city and county local authorities.

Please contact us with any questions or queries, and visit our website for information on what the Hub offers.

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