

Cornwall Music Education Hub Self Evaluation - *How musical is our school?*

The questions below are designed to help you review music activity in your school. The first step is being honest!

**What are my feelings about my own musical experience at school?
How does provision at our school compare?**

What is the Cornwall Music Education Hub?

To find out more about this visit www.cornwallmusiceducationhub.org
A lot of what is on offer is **free** and can support music at your school!

Is music actually happening in the curriculum? How do I know?

Music should not just be happening in singing assemblies or clubs. Is meaningful musically creative activity happening in the classroom regularly and included in the timetable?

Look at the evidence. Video / Audio / Written?

Look at planning for music with teachers. Talk to pupils about their musical activity.

Who is delivering music in our school?

No-one / A music co-ordinator with music as a specialism / all teachers deliver to their own class / A visiting teacher with music as a specialism / another member of staff with music as a specialism? Does our current provision model work?

How do I know if what is going on is high quality? Am I able to make a judgment on it?

Who can help me?

Specialist music teachers within the Cornwall Music Education Hub are available to visit school to look at planning and evidence with you. It is also possible to have a specialist observe a music lesson alongside line managers to offer support as to what to look for in a music lesson.

Do we need to have some music training in our school?

To keep up to date with current developments music should be on the agenda regularly. Think about when it was last reviewed. Are staff up to speed with the new National Curriculum for music?

Does this mean that my co-ordinator/teachers will need to attend training outside of school or can we have training at school?

There is training available both on specific music courses such as the Vocal Strategy training supported by Cornwall Music Education Hub as well as the Cornwall Music Education Hub conference and the Southwest peninsula music hubs conference. Cornwall Music Education Hub providers can also provide bespoke training in school for teachers in the form of INSET or staff meetings. It is also possible to arrange to have a specialist music teacher working alongside staff in the classroom for a period of time as CPD. Free twilights are also arranged



termly through Cornwall Music Education Hub for music co-ordinators to attend. If you think you may not be on our mailing list please contact us.

How else can I access training and support for the staff in our school?

Contact your local secondary school who may be able to offer support through their music specialist, including in school activity.

Contact other schools in your area or cluster who may have a music specialist available to support you in school.

You can find information via the internet on websites such as

www.cornwallmusiceducationhub.org

There is now an information exchange forum area on this website for music co-ordinators.

What would happen if my current music - co-ordinator left right now? Would the music in my school be able to continue?

It is important to try and engage everyone with musical activity of some description throughout the whole school in order to ensure that music is fully integrated into the curriculum. Music can of course have a positive impact on learning in all areas of the curriculum!

How can I make sure it keeps happening?

Try creating an **area** on the school server and asking staff to put all recorded music activity in this folder at least once every half term. This should include all areas of musical activity.

Pupils should have the **opportunity** to watch / listen to their recorded work as part of the assessment process.

What are our musical strengths as a school and how can we build on what we already have?

Think about where musical activity is really happening - singing / playing / composing / choir / band etc. Can this feed into the curriculum more successfully? What is it about these activities that makes them work well? Can we take these strengths and use them to promote learning by linking with other areas of the music curriculum that are less strong? Perhaps classes could compose a song for the choir to perform? Could a class compose a piece of music linked to a topic that the band can play? Might pupils compose a school song?

What are our non-musical strengths as a school and can we use these to help us become more musical?

Don't just consider the curriculum here; think about links with others agencies or organisations as well as community involvement

Are there any awards we can aim for to recognise our musical activity?

Yes! Arts Award, Sing Up awards and now also the Cornish Singing School

Who can help us get them?

Contact Cornwall Music Education Hub who will put you in touch with the right person for your school's requirements.

www.cornwallmusiceducationhub.org

Do you let parents and the community know about your music making? How can they get involved?

Does music feature in your newsletter or on your school website? Audio and film clips are always popular and can really enhance a visit to the school website. It's a great way to promote the school.

If there are musicians in your local community or amongst the parent/ carers why not invite them in to do an assembly or even run a session in school.

Try inviting parents and carers in to join in with musical activity at school such as a singing assembly.

Have we got a governor with responsibility for music ? What can he/she do to support us in ensuring it's happening?

Invite your music governor to sit in on musical activity at school and let the other governors know what is going on. This governor can also support requests when it comes to spending money on music if he/she has seen first hand the value it can bring and the resources needed to make it work better in school.

What will inspire my staff to teach and use music in other areas of teaching?

Once teachers experience musical activity in other areas of their teaching and see the positive impact it can have it is likely that they will continue to use it. There are so many songs and activities to support all areas of the curriculum. These can be found on websites such as Sing Up but Cornwall Music Education Hub can also offer advice via its forum, at twilights and by phone! Hub staff can provide INSET or staff meetings based on other curriculum areas for you.

There is also a great deal of music technology which can be utilised in other curriculum areas such as science.

Physical games involving musical activity promote good co-ordination.

Musical activity can also be very good for raising morale and promoting teamwork.

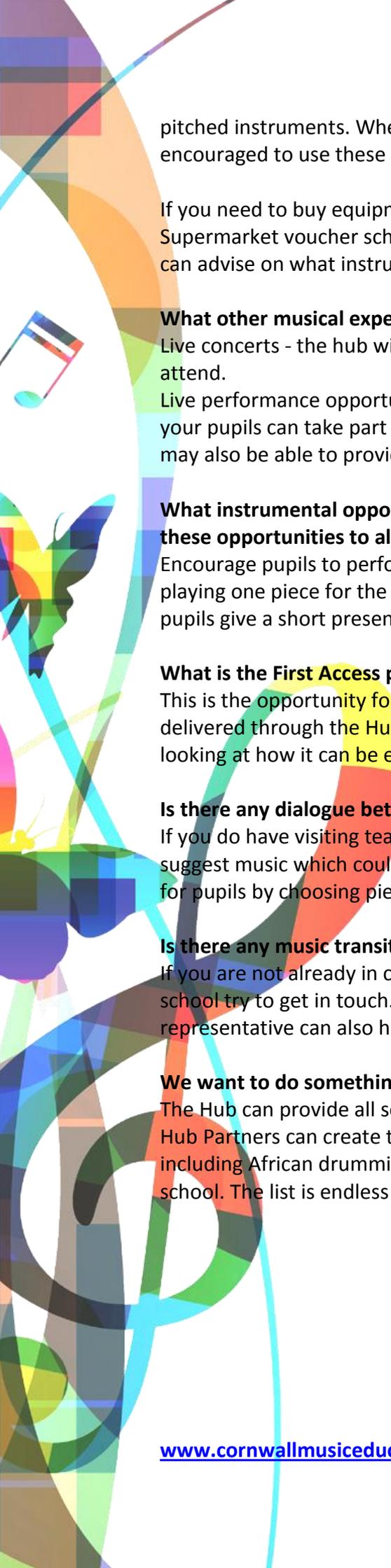
Doing short bursts of musical activity throughout the day from singing whilst lining up to queuing for lunch provides a break from the norm and takes away the need to shout instructions.

Do we follow a scheme of work? Is it fit for purpose? When was it last reviewed? How do our staff feel about it? What else is out there?

Where are the areas of weakness - composing / performing / singing? Who can I go to for advice on this matter? Cornwall Music Education Hub can advise on all of these matters.

Do we actually have the equipment needed to deliver music effectively in school?

To effectively deliver music in school it is necessary to provide pupils with a good range of pitched percussion including xylophones, chime bars etc alongside a varied selection of non-



pitched instruments. Where pupils are learning to play instruments they should also be encouraged to use these as part of curriculum music.

If you need to buy equipment perhaps your school PTA could make it a fundraising focus. Supermarket voucher schemes can also include musical instruments. Hub representatives can advise on what instruments are needed for delivery.

What other musical experiences should we be providing for our pupils?

Live concerts - the hub will keep you up to date with FREE performances which pupils can attend.

Live performance opportunities outside school. The hub organises large scale events which your pupils can take part in. Cluster events are also popular. Your local secondary school may also be able to provide opportunities for pupils here.

What instrumental opportunities are on offer in school? Are we effectively promoting these opportunities to all our pupils?

Encourage pupils to perform regularly. This doesn't have to be formal. It may be simply be playing one piece for the class occasionally as well as formal assemblies and concerts. Can pupils give a short presentation about their instrumental experience to their class?

What is the First Access programme?

This is the opportunity for all pupils to experience learning a musical instrument and can be delivered through the Hub to whole classes. The set-up of this programme also involves looking at how it can be embedded in the curriculum. Contact the Hub for more information.

Is there any dialogue between visiting music teachers in our school and the class teachers?

If you do have visiting teachers make the most of their expertise. They may well be able to suggest music which could enhance a particular topic in school as well as linking the learning for pupils by choosing pieces for them to play which tie in with themed work.

Is there any music transition work going on?

If you are not already in contact with the subject leader for music at your local secondary school try to get in touch. Information sharing need not be time consuming. Your Hub representative can also help here.

We want to do something a little bit different! What else is on offer?

The Hub can provide all sorts of activities for you in school from workshops to arts week. Hub Partners can create tailor made sessions for your school through a range of activities including African drumming, samba, steel pans, singing, Taiko drumming, junk band, rock school. The list is endless! If you have something in mind the chances are we can help!