



London Music Masters at Ashmole Primary School

A prospectus for schools, families and communities



At **London Music Masters (LMM)** we believe that music is of *inherent cultural value* and that it can have *a lifelong impact* on the social, educational and cultural development of children and communities. Together with our partner schools we provide access to some of the highest quality music education that is currently being delivered in state primary schools in the UK.

This prospectus will give you a guide to the activities that your child will be able to participate in at Ashmole Primary School through London Music Masters' music education programme, **LMM Learning**.

Structure

Music at Early Years

Music can form part of a rich and varied curriculum for Reception age children. It helps children explore sound and language, movement, new cultures, working together and leadership and is universally recognised as an important part of a child's education.

At the **Early Years Foundation Stage**, LMM Learning introduces small groups of children to musicianship classes, led by an experienced Early Years Music Specialist during the school day. Musicianship has been specifically developed to train the musical ear of the child in a fun and creative way. It makes use of song, movement and play - appealing to visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles - and the children are introduced to musical notation and the building blocks of music: rhythm, pitch, melody, pulse, dynamic and timbre.

Each 45 minute musicianship session includes elements of several renowned music teaching methodologies which together form the basis for London Music Masters' teaching approach. Sessions are often supported by guest musicians and we welcome parental attendance; please speak to your child's Reception teacher for more information about this.

Year 1 and Year 2

The best way to learn about music is to make music! In Year 1 and Year 2 each child is taught to play the violin or cello three times a week in a combination of paired and group lessons.

We provide each child with a custom-sized violin or cello and deliver instrumental lessons in pairs and small groups to which parents and family members are encouraged to attend. Once they have demonstrated an understanding of the care of the instrument and are able to practise under supervision they are allowed and encouraged to take their instruments home to practise. Each of our teachers is trained in a method which moves organically from the foundation work of the musicianship classes which take place in the Reception year. It draws heavily on the Suzuki method which was developed in Japan in the mid-20th Century and is at the heart of music education projects around the world. At the end of the Year 2, when the children are six or seven years old, all children will have the opportunity to earn a Music Medal. Music Medals are accredited by the renowned exam board the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and are a fantastic way to recognise the children's hard work and achievement.

Year 3 onwards...

For those children who would like to continue learning to play the violin or cello, tuition is available for all.

Any child who wants to keep playing can do so. At Ashmole Primary School, LMM Learning offers 2 programme strands in Key Stage 2 to suit the different learning styles of individual children. Lessons are parent-funded with financial support available for those who meet the criteria. At this stage LMM Learning only facilitates violin and cello lessons; children wishing to play other instruments are signposted to other opportunities for subsidised lessons delivered by the borough's Music Hub: Lambeth Music Network.

Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2, children learning an instrument with LMM Learning have access to a wide variety of inspiring performance opportunities and creative projects. These take place in many different venues and contexts, and range from community performances at local fetes, libraries and care homes to large-scale concerts on stage at the Royal Festival Hall, and bring the children into contact with professional musicians from across London and further afield.

Performing

Gaining experience and confidence through performance is an important part of a child's musical education and a significant aspect of an individual's personal development. LMM Learning provides performance opportunities throughout its programme in the following areas:

In school



Each week there are informal performances given during lessons for parents and peers. Children are encouraged to sign up for these performance slots and each child has the opportunity to take part. This regular opportunity to 'practise' performing builds a strong foundation for performing on bigger stages. In addition to these mini concerts we hold larger events most terms including winter and summer concerts and performances to celebrate particular units of work (for example Creativity Agenda: Jazz). Children also participate as musicians in events hosted by the school such as school plays and winter or summer fairs.

"The children's playing sparkles with confidence"

The Guardian

On stage

Through our network of partners we are able to access some of the most incredible performance spaces in the UK. We regularly perform at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall and have performed at the Royal College of Music, St John's Smith Square and concert venues in Eastbourne and Oxford. These events are only partly about the excitement and experience of performing in large, impressive contexts. They also provide the opportunity to participate in an important collaboration with world class organisations with access to some of their immense resources. We have co-commissioned several major works for our students and the London Philharmonic Orchestra and regularly work with jazz and world musicians to expand the cultural and musical horizons of the children.

"One of the most moving things I have ever seen"

Christina Paterson, Independent

In the community

Our community performance strand enables our students to use music to connect to the communities in which they live. We take small groups of children to perform in local community spaces such as hospitals, sheltered accommodation for the elderly, libraries, parent and toddler groups and community centres. Through this outreach the children have the opportunity to share what they have learned with people in their surrounding community, and can engage with people in different circumstances to their own. Through this engagement they begin to appreciate the positive impact their own music making can have on people around them while gaining from this experience themselves.

"The children were an inspiration to us all. The children in the hospital really enjoyed the performance and I see daily the therapeutic benefits Arts input like this can have on us all.

Thank you"

Ward Teacher – Evalina Children's Hospital

Family Involvement

As you know, parents and carers play the most important role in any child's education. This is as true in music as it is in maths! Although our teachers are developing the children's instrumental skills during lessons they need parental support at home, at concerts and at after school lessons to make sure each child can reach his or her full potential.

Four ways you can help:

1. Come to the lessons after school.

It makes such a difference if you are there! Each week the teachers will provide tips and activities which you can help your child with at home. Music is not an activity that can survive if there is not regular practice at home with support from parents (much like reading and writing!)

2. Become engaged in your child's lesson by supporting the tutors with your child's behaviour.

If it would help to have a quiet word with your child before or during a lesson then please do so. It will mean that the instrumental tutors can concentrate on the teaching and reward positive behaviour.

3. Talk to the tutors first if there are any issues.

They want to help and are the first point of contact if there is anything you are unhappy about or you think could be improved. They might not always be able to follow your suggestions but they will listen!

4. Make use of our online resources.

We have audio versions of most of the pieces your child will be learning on our website as well as games to help with notation reading and fact files about the repertoire to provide historical and cultural context to the pieces. Please take a look: <http://www.londonmusicmasters.org/learning-resources/>



Expectations of Participation

In order for LMM Learning programmes to run smoothly there are expectations for those who participate. These are summarised below:

LMM Learning is part of the school curriculum endorsed and funded by Ashmole School and London Music Masters and as such, every student is expected to participate during Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Involvement from Year 3 onwards is conditional upon parents paying for tuition, although depending on the financial circumstances of individual households, help with costs is available.

Parents are expected to attend weekly after school lessons with their child and help with practice at home. Children are expected to follow their teacher's guidance regarding practice at home with parental support.

LMM Learning Map

Why string instruments? The cello and violin are great instruments on which to begin your musical journey, whatever you end up playing or doing. You can start from a young age as these instruments come in a range of sizes, and they help you to develop your sense of pitch as well as fine and gross motor skills. String instruments are complex and challenging at times, but our inclusive and encouraging teaching approach shows the children that anything is possible with hard work and enthusiasm! There is always high demand for string instruments in any orchestra so learning the violin or cello provides the greatest opportunity for participation for those who are interested and choose to engage in the community aspects of playing.

How much does it cost? LMM fundraises over £800,000 each year to keep our programmes running in 7 schools with almost 1,500 children. We raise it from different sources including trusts and foundations that support our vision, private individuals, corporate sponsors, and schools. At Ashmole, the programme is funded by the school and London Music Masters for children from Reception to Year 2. From Year 3 onwards, parents are asked to pay for their child's tuition, and help with costs is available through bursaries. For more information about bursaries please speak to Colita Sewell in the school office.

Will my child be involved in fundraising events? Sometimes we invite children to participate in specific fundraising events but they are not compulsory. Every performance that the children do has to have a strong educational and artistic benefit to the children before we will commit to it.

What if my child doesn't like the violin or cello? All children go through periods where they don't like working hard or get bored with things they have to do at school. It helps if you can encourage them through these difficult phases as it often works out really well in the long term! Of course, if you have ongoing concerns on this matter please speak with your child's instrumental tutor.

Can I arrange extra lessons for my child? The LMM Learning programme is designed to offer your child a full and focussed experience. We feel that the amount of tuition your child receives is appropriate for their age and is more than adequate to enable your child to reach his or her potential, but if you have any concerns Colita Sewell can put you in touch with someone from the London Music Masters office.

What is Pathways? Pathways is a programme which London Music Masters runs across all of its schools providing additional lessons for children showing particular promise on the violin and coming from communities under-represented in classical music. The Pathways programme is open to children who learn the violin or cello in Key Stage 2. Children are nominated for Pathways by their instrumental teachers and those who meet the programme's criteria are invited to begin an audition process.

How are London Music Masters teachers trained? All of our teachers participate in regular training sessions led by expert music teachers and professionals. The curriculum they work to has been developed with the help of renowned pedagogues. All tutors are graduates of music conservatoires and leading Universities. They are observed twice a year using the Ofsted framework.

Can my child take music exams? Children are encouraged to take ABRSM Music Medals in Year 2 which are designed as a way of recognising achievement in a group setting. In later years some parents want their children to take further exams. We normally discuss this on a one to one basis as exams can be really helpful for some children but not for all and getting the timing right is key! Most children will take an ABRSM graded exam in Year 6.

Who do I contact?

For any issues relating to your child's musical development please speak with his or her music teacher after a lesson.

For any issues relating to the administration and communication of the project please speak to Colita Sewell in the school office. You can also contact her via email: csewell@ashmoleprimaryschool.org.uk

If your query has not been resolved satisfactorily either by your child's music teacher or by Colita or you would like to discuss issues relating to the programme's structure or management please contact the London Music Masters management team: tel 020 7582 4820 or email: learning@londonmusicmasters.org

For more information please visit:

www.londonmusicmasters.org