

Developing and Promoting The Creative Arts



2022-2023 Report

St Peter's London Docks Primary School

Funded by the Hearn Foundation

Contents

Our Aims for The Creative Arts 2022-2023	Page 3
Meet Our Creative Leaders	Page 4
AIM 1: To continue to develop strong links between drama, literacy and emotional health through ROAR	Page 5
AIM 2: To continue to develop and deepen the musical knowledge and experiences of our children to encourage a life-long appreciation of music	Page 6—9
AIM 3: To increase our children’s exposure to a wide range of Creative Arts experiences exploring music, history, culture, literature and self-expression.	Page 10-12
AIM 4: To enhance our children’s literary understanding through language development, exposure to quality literature and parental engagement.	Page 13-14
Our Creative Leader’s 2022-2023 highlights	Page 15
The children’s 2022-2023 highlights	Page 16

Our Aims for

The Creative Arts 2022-2023

AIM 1: To continue to develop strong links between drama, literacy and emotional health (ROAR programme)

WHY? Engagement with the Creative Arts is proven to help reduce anxiety and stress as well as improve focus, boost resilience and increase self-confidence – providing our community of children with the tools they need for positive mental health and well-being.

AIM 2: To continue to develop and deepen the musical knowledge and experiences of our children to encourage a life-long appreciation of music

WHY? Listening to, playing and creating music develops communication, boosts cognition, cultivates patience, improves mood, increases emotional intelligence and develops coordination. The musical opportunities and experiences we are able to provide for our children establish the foundations for a life-long love of music and encourage all of our children to pursue their own musical journey during and beyond their time at St Peter's.

AIM 3: To increase our children's exposure to a wide range of Creative Arts experiences exploring music, history, culture, literature and self-expression.

WHY? Experiencing the Arts first-hand helps our children to gain new perspectives, imagine worlds different from their own and develop empathy for people outside of their immediate bubble. Taking learning beyond the classroom improves pupil engagement, nurtures creativity, develops interests beyond their own local environment and expose children to exciting new possibilities.

AIM 4: To enhance our children's literary understanding through language development, exposure to quality literature and parental engagement.

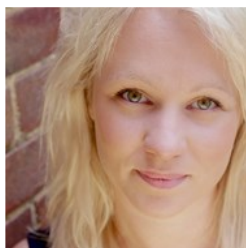
WHY? Developing literary understanding is a fundamental aspect of our curriculum. Language development plays an important role in this and for many children, more specific and targeted intervention is required in the form of speech therapy. Parental engagement is vital in ensuring this work continues in collaboration with families.

Meet Our Creative Leaders

Through the generous funding we receive to support the promotion of Creative Arts at St Peter's, we are able to employ the expertise the *Little Creatives* team who lead our Creative Arts curriculum.



Sarah Cuthbertson



Director of *Little Creatives* / Facilitator

Sarah began *Little Creatives* in 2014. A high energy, Creative Arts company working in schools, facilitating FUNdango Holiday Clubs and specialist projects. Little Creatives is FUN and Creativity—the very best combination - bringing the curriculum to life through drama, making music lessons soar and delivering their ROAR emotional health programme.

Sarah originally trained at The Academy Drama School and performed in theatre both in London and the UK. She has toured, written and directed for various TIE companies. Discovering her passion for Creative Arts facilitation, after a series of work with young people in both main stream and alternative educational settings, Sarah completed an MA in Child Studies at Kings College London.

Sarah also runs trainings and 1:1 coaching on Creative Behaviour Management, Creative Learning, Emotional Health and Communication with Adolescents.



Cheryl Felgate

Senior Facilitator

Cheryl graduated from Middlesex University with a BA in Performing Arts in 2003 and ever since has been working as a creative facilitator and performer. Cheryl works across the arts, including dance, singing and drama.

Cheryl has worked with the Shakespeare School's Festival, facilitated workshops and Creative Consultancies in schools across London with Bigfoot Arts Education and currently works across the Enfield Attigo School's Trust delivering dance and drama curriculum enrichment.

Cheryl is a lead creative at the Surrey based performing arts school, Theatre4kids where she also teaches the LCM Musical Theatre Syllabus with her private singing students. Cheryl has enjoyed working with Little Creatives for many years, creatively teaching the music curriculum and facilitating the holiday programme, Fundangos!

Cheryl is also an established director and choreographer. Projects include Choreographer on Singstar Dance (Sony), The Ugly Duckling (Kipper TIE) and Assistant Director for UK Tours and West End residencies of the popular children's book adaptations of Aliens love Underpants and Monstersaurus (Big Wooden Horse and Nick Brooke Ltd).

AIM 1: To continue to develop strong links between drama, literacy and emotional health through ROAR

ROAR is a unique Emotional Health programme, designed and delivered through the Creative Arts – developed by Sarah Cuthbertson, director of Little Creatives and the Creative Arts Lead at St Peter's.

The programme begins by exploring the importance of ALL feelings, even when they might be uncomfortable. It teaches our children that feelings give us messages, help us to keep safe and let us know when we need to make a change.

Our children are taught to...

R - **RECOGNISE** how we feel

O - Find the **ORIGIN** (what has created this feeling)

A - Choose an **ACT** in response (Me Change, Mindset or Hand it Over)

R – And finally **RELEASE**.

Through interactive, highly creative work, children are taught:

- ♦ to recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings and how to spot them before they get too big
- ♦ about our brains, including our Emergency Response Crew and how parts of our brain and behaviour develop
- ♦ the science behind how to change our mindset and behaviour as well as how to use drama to explore outcomes of choice
- ♦ how to release uncomfortable feelings as well as identifying people, places and activities that bring on comfortable feelings

This work empowers our children to know that they can make a difference in their own lives by developing emotional health, Growth Mindset, resilience and autonomy.



AIM 2: To continue to develop and deepen the musical knowledge and experiences of our children to encourage a life-long appreciation of music

Glee Club and Choir

The Little Creatives team run a Glee Club and School Choir for any St Peter's pupils interested in singing and performing outside of regular lesson time.

Our Creative Arts leaders bring their love of a musicals to Glee Club and collaborate with the children to create impressive performances of well-known musical numbers such as *Singing in the Rain* and *Consider Yourself* (both pictured).



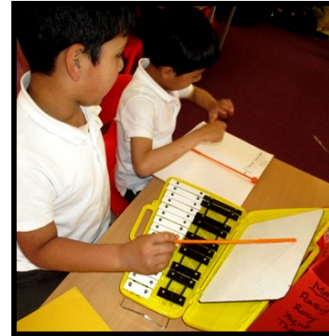
Whole School Singing and Collective Movement



Singing remains a fundamental part of school life at St Peter's. We have seen the benefits of singing on so many levels - physically, mentally and socially, which is why we continue to provide many singing opportunities across our curriculum. Miss Sarah leads dedicated weekly singing assemblies with tailored themes and opportunities for all to perform. These sessions develop a shared sense of purpose for our school community and continue to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of all involved.

Our Music Curriculum

Our creative leaders deliver a carefully constructed curriculum that has been written to ensure that each pupil develops a musical understanding and skillset throughout their time at our school. All years include singing, performance and music theory. Our creative leads also provide staff with training on effective music teaching to ensure that all opportunities for creativity are harnessed throughout the wider curriculum.



St Peter's Spring Concert

Our Spring Concert is an opportunity for all of our children who are part of the school choir or who play an instrument (over 70 children this year!) to showcase their musical skills in front of their classmates, parents and special guests. These opportunities allow our children to build confidence in front of larger audiences as well as raise the profile of children (at every level) who have invested time and effort in advancing their musical education.



London Youth Orchestra at The Royal Albert Hall

This year our Year 4 and 5 classes joined the London Youth Orchestra for a magnificent concert at the Royal Albert Hall to celebrate the choir's 10 year anniversary. Our children performed as part of a choir of 1500 children. It was such an incredible experience for the children, staff and also the parents who were also invited to attend the event. The children rehearsed their pieces over a number of weeks with the support of RAH music leaders who visited the school several times before the event.



Christmas Concert

The Key Stage Two Christmas concert, performed to the whole school community, included singing of traditional carols, short drama performances from festive tales and film as well as instrumental performances. The Christmas concert provides a wonderful opportunity for all our children to collaborate towards a shared creative goal and to experience each stage of the process from collecting initial ideas to the big performance.



Thames Scholarship Students

We were proud to congratulate two of our music scholarship students who took part in the THAMES orchestra day. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their skills, meet other musicians and collaborate on a performance with music students from across Tower Hamlets.



"It is really challenging learning to play a string instrument but once you work out how to hold the bow – it's much easier!"

Our violin teacher is really fun and the day was really fun too... I really enjoy playing with other people and I hope to achieve the top grade someday."



"At the Thames Orchestra day, I liked how I could perform and watch others perform too."

I would love to get to Grade 8 someday and perform in an orchestra again."

Why do we value instrument learning at St Peter's?

"Playing a musical instrument, one of the most complex and demanding cognitive challenges the brain can undertake, is a very rewarding experience for many people on both the emotional and the biological level. The remarkable sensory-motor interplay that is trained during the process can be applied to so many other tasks one may face in their life."

Instruments of Knowledge: Music and the Brain—Anne R. Stoklosa

AIM 3: To increase our children's exposure to a wide range of Creative Arts experiences exploring music, history, culture, literature and self-expression.

Ascension Day Outings 2022-23

Every class in the school had a very special outing planned for Ascension Day this year.

Our Early Years children visited Paradise Park Wildlife Park and the older years saw *Frozen* performed in the West End.

The children were in awe of the production and the Royal theatre surroundings. Our Year 5 children, who were studying the Titanic, made comparisons between the luxurious interior in the theatre and that aboard the Titanic.

Our Early Years children explored the wildlife park and took part in a number of hands-on activities bringing their classroom learning to life and providing vital opportunities for language development in real life contexts.



Year 6 Christmas Ballet

Our Year 6 pupils visited the Coliseum Theatre to see the *Nutcracker* presented by the English National Ballet. Most of our children had never seen a ballet performance before. Witnessing the orchestra, dancers, costumes and set design combined was a truly inspiring experience.



Year 6 Performance

The Year 6 production of *Alice in Wonderland* was a triumph this year. With support from our Creative Leads, the children rehearsed and adapted scripts, designed costumes, created sets and gave an impressive and confident performance to the school community - putting into practice the creative skills embedded throughout their time at St Peter's.



The World's a Stage

Throughout the year , we strive to provide our children with exposure to as many creative performances as possible in local, smaller venues as well as inviting workshops and performers to visit us. These experiences open up new worlds, ideas and prospects for our children and inspire them to strive towards their own creative goals both on the stage and behind the scenes.



Family Dance Show

Miss Sarah runs a family dance group that enables parents and children to explore movement and music together in safe, encouraging space. Many of the families have been attending the group for five consecutive years which culminated in a special performance to the whole school that included some new compositions as well as revisiting some past routines.

AIM 4: To enhance our children's literary understanding through language development, exposure to quality literature and parental engagement.

Parental engagement—
Language Development through
Creativity

This year we invested in a programme of high quality parent workshops, delivered by Tower Hamlets, that focused on language development through a range of creative activities. The workshops, some run by professional artists, gave parents valuable time and space to explore these developmental areas alongside their children as well as providing guidance on how to progress language skills through creative pursuits.



Speech Therapy

Some of our children have been working with an independent speech and language therapy service, Magic Words. They provide much needed therapeutic programmes for children with speech and language difficulties. These sessions give children the support and tools needed to access and engage with all areas of the curriculum both inside and outside of the classroom.

MISSION & VALUES



Dramatic Progress in Literacy

We continue to invest in Dramatic Progress in Literacy schemes and resources that explore quality, classic literary texts and historical events through drama, language and creative writing.

The lessons immerse our children into historical eras and bring to life important the characters and events.

These lessons allow our children to put into practise and further develop their creative skills and interests resulting in high quality written work and memories that stick.





**Our Creative Leader's
2022-2023
highlights...**

"Seeing the children's confidence and imagination grow!"

...

"Singing with the London Youth Choir at the Royal Albert hall was incredible."

...

"More and more we are seeing a passion and dedication for instrumental learning development at St Peter's. Some of our music assemblies this year opened with children volunteering to play a piece and answer questions about their learning journey."

...

"The Year 6 production was a highlight for me. The children were so focused and worked so hard to pull the show together. It was a joy to see them smiling and confident on stage and to think back on the journeys they have made to get there over the years."

**Some of the children's
2022-2023
highlights...**

*"I like that we can let go of everything
and focus on fun." - Ollie*

*"I enjoy expressing myself and acting and
singing with my friends. Miss Sarah pushes
me to be confident and to try my best." - Nia*

*"I used to be nervous about acting in front of
everyone but Miss Sarah helped me... now I love
doing it!" - Lana*

*"Everyone gets a chance to express
themselves!" - Lotta*