

Case Study: Excellence and Innovation in the Performing Arts

ANNEMOUNT SCHOOL

JANUARY 2024



History of the School

Annemount Nursery and Pre-Prep School, established in 1936, has a rich history of fostering individuality and potential in children aged two and a half to seven. Situated near Hampstead Heath in Hampstead Garden Suburb, London N2, the school's philosophy revolves around cultivating self-discipline and respect in each pupil. The core belief in nurturing good character and citizenship shapes the school's environment, promoting the values of community and mutual respect.

The school's commitment to bringing out each pupil's unique qualities is evident through its extensive offerings in the performing arts. These opportunities not only enrich the culture of the institution but also encourage independent learning and resilience, all while preserving the pupil's individual spirit. The dedication to holistic education is further reflected in the range of extra-curricular subjects taught by specialist teachers who possess both subject expertise and a passion for their area.

Annemount's commitment extends beyond academics to the holistic well-being of its pupils. Prioritising their health, safety, and emotional, physical, and psychological well-being, the school ensures that every child's needs are met, nurturing a secure and supportive environment for growth and learning with academic breadth ensuring that pupils leave the school at seven years old, well-prepared for their next stages of learning. The emphasis on developing diverse study skills equips them for future challenges. The school's commitment to pastoral care focusses on each pupil's unique needs and interests, promoting well-being and imparting techniques for self-regulation and facing challenges positively. The comprehensive curriculum, supplemented by subjects like drama, dance, chess, computing, gym, music, and swimming, provides a well-rounded education to its pupils with a vibrant tapestry of music at its core.



Geraldine Maidment
Headteacher



All pupils are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate in the diverse expressions of music, with the subject woven into the curriculum. Children learn to sing, play various instruments, collaborate and have fun.

Annemount also delves into the realm of dance as an embodiment of exercise, creativity, and well-being. Reflecting the school's holistic approach, dance takes centre stage as a medium of self-expression and physical activity. The integration of dance within the curriculum underscores the school's commitment to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures the body, mind, and spirit.

Annemount School was proud to be the ISA Award Winner in this category for 2022.

<https://www.annemount.co.uk>



Aims

- Foster self-discipline and respect in each pupil through active engagement in performing arts, helping each one realise their unique potential.
- Provide extensive performing arts education, extending beyond conventional subjects to include dance, poetry, singing, drumming, ukulele, and more.
- Offer violin and individual singing lessons from age three, cultivating concentration, coordination, and musical skills at an early stage.
- Ensure EYFS pupils learn dance, poetry, and singing while introducing ukulele, recorder, and drums to KS1 students, fostering a strong artistic base.
- Encourage choir participation to nurture teamwork, collaboration, and vocal skills, fostering harmonious interactions and self-expression.
- Utilise creative teaching methods that spark pupils' interest and appreciation for music, enhancing their learning experiences.
- Regularly invite professional musicians to introduce various composers and styles, fueling curiosity and motivation to explore classical music.
- Highlight former pupils' accomplishments in music, composition, and performance to demonstrate the potential of a strong performing arts foundation.
- Engage parents in understanding the academic and personal benefits of music education, encouraging practice routines and skill development.
- Promote opportunities for performance in conjunction with active engagement with charity.
- Promote executive function skills, emotional well-being, and self-esteem through musical instrument learning, nurturing personal growth.



OUTCOMES

- Each pupil's unique qualities are nurtured, leading to the realisation of their potential.
- Pupils receive an extensive performing arts education encompassing diverse subjects like dance, poetry, singing, and instruments such as violin, ukulele, recorder, and drumming.
- Performance at the school starts with the presentation of a Show and Tell object in Nursery which evolves year by year to Professor of the Week, Mini Expert and presenter of researched projects such as How Green is My Life or a British topic of choice in Year Two.
- Presentation skills are developed to the stage of being able to teach the class about their subject, testing the listeners with a quiz and ensuring that there are also fun facts to remember. This performing of the teacher role increases confidence and personal positivity.
- Starting from age three, pupils have engaged with musical instruments, cultivating early concentration, coordination, and musical skills through violin and individual singing lessons.
- Early Years Foundation Stage pupils have developed skills in dance, poetry, singing, and instrumental exploration, while Key Stage 1 pupils have embraced additional instruments.
- Pupils in the school choir have developed skills in teamwork, collaboration, and harmonising skills while experiencing the joy of performing together.



- Innovative teaching techniques have captivated pupils, igniting their curiosity and appreciation for music, thereby enhancing overall learning experiences.
- Regular interactions with professional musicians inspire pupils to explore diverse musical genres and the stories behind composers, fostering a deeper appreciation for classical music.
- Former pupils inspire current pupils, showcasing potential and encouraging aspirations.
- Parents are actively engaged, understanding the benefits of music education, practice routines, and the positive impact on academic success.
- Learning instruments like the violin has fostered skills such as focus, memory, motor coordination, and discipline, contributing to overall executive function and well-being.
- Participation in music has uplifted pupils' confidence, self-esteem, and well-being, providing a creative outlet for self-expression.
- Pupils regularly showcase their progress and accomplishments during dedicated "Celebration of Music Weeks" and "Annemount Has Talent" events.
- Pupils strive for excellence by setting and preparing for performances through focused intention and commitment, fostering achievement.
- Polished performances inspire and motivate peers, driving exploration of artistic interests and enhancing the overall performing arts culture.
- Peer performances inspire other pupils to express an interest in learning instruments like the violin, with over half the school are now requesting violin lessons.
- Ongoing success of violinists is demonstrated by high academic achievements, distinctions in grade exams, scholarships, and prestigious music program placements.
- Pupils, teachers, and parents have come together through musical performances, strengthening community connections and mutual support.
- Pupils' achievements in performing arts are celebrated, fostering a culture of recognition for dedication and effort.
- Positive feedback from parents, pupils, and alumni serves as motivation for ongoing improvement and expansion of the performing arts curriculum.



NEXT STEPS

- To continue to offer all our pupils exceptional opportunities, through our continuously evolving performing arts curriculum, and maintaining our vibrant and inclusive artistic culture.
- To further tailor our performing arts curriculum, expanding where possible, to include individual pupil interests and strengths.
- To continue to bring joy to audiences, such as retirement homes and Great Ormond Street hospital with further performances from our choristers.

Contact: Geraldine Maidment - headteacher@annemount.co.uk