

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

KEY FACTS & CHARACTERISTICS

- Wider Opportunity funding from 2009 is now retained centrally with each school allocated a programme if they wish. Each school is asked to contribute the £250 shortfall.
- Wider Opportunities programmes have reached all but two primary schools. This represents a 17% increase from 2008/9 with schools opting to use their delegated grant to buy in a programme from WMS. In addition to this nearly 20% of schools have bought an additional/transition programme. This uptake would have been greater if not for the current financial burden placed on Wakefield schools' budgets this year.
- Continuation rates for programmes were 56% in 08/09 and current data shows that this has now increased to 76% for 09/10.
- The programmes are delivered by a combination of WMS instrumental teachers, an additional dedicated full time Wider Opportunities teacher and 4 part time teachers
- Our current Wider Opportunities provision is extensive with a wide variety of programmes including voice, violin, recorder, guitar, classroom percussion, samba, African drumming, ukulele, mixed strings, flute, brass.
- All programmes have common elements such as a 3 part lesson structure, explicit learning objectives, links to National Curriculum and include rhythm work and singing as important elements whatever the instrument focus.
- All programmes are timetabled for an hour (to include some set up time where appropriate) over 36 weeks. The first session is an initial meeting with staff and the last an evaluation of the year.

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- Thorough monitoring and quality assurance of programmes. Strengths and areas for development are highlighted. Targeted support is arranged where needed, including joint observations and sharing of good practice between staff
 - Regular whole service CPD training
 - Original resources and support materials are specifically written to enhance Wider Opportunities programmes
 - All staff are encouraged to use ICT to enrich their teaching (Service PM target for 09/10) and are issued with laptops. Technology such as projectors, portable smartboards, CD players and digital audio recorders are also widely in use. From 2009 all staff and primary schools will have the use of the Charanga website where they will have access to a vast range of musical resources. In addition this will provide out of school support and learning opportunities for an increasing number of pupils and staff
 - 2008/9 saw the introduction Teaching and Learning Group who are becoming an increasingly effective group of practitioners who are able to share expertise, develop new initiatives and have an input into the training programme and shared materials.
 - Improving standards of teaching and learning. Internal monitoring data for Wider Opportunities shows that from 2007 there has been an increase from 54% of lessons judged good or better to 77% and a decrease in lessons judged to be inadequate from 11% to 3%
 - A recent evaluation questionnaire that was sent to all schools resulted in 98% of programmes being deemed as good or outstanding and 2% satisfactory
 - Developments
 - Piloting, introduction and investigation of new programmes
 - Development of revised assessment criteria and pupil target setting
 - Furthering the impact of the Teaching & Learning Group