

From a Junior School Headteacher.....

In September 2008 when I took up the post of Headteacher at Cowley Hill School it became apparent that music provision in the school was almost non-existent.

I believe that the quality of the provision in a school is a fundamental component of high achievement and I further believe that quality music provision can help to raise a school from being a good school to an excellent one.

My experience of both teaching and Headship has taught me that I can access the best quality provision through the Hertfordshire Music Service. The professionals who work for this service are committed and talented and the managers of the service will make every effort to accommodate the needs of school.

In 2008 we needed a music teacher. We got one before the end of the autumn term and could not believe our luck. She is absolutely superb and her own enthusiasm for music and singing is contagious. Her impact has been so significant on children, staff and parents that we have extended her contract to have her in school for two days instead of one. Children and staff love their music lessons; music has become an important factor in their lives. All who attended the two school productions last year commented on the quality of singing and of the evident enjoyment of the children participating. All class Assemblies now contain singing and the children love it. She has become part of the school team and works with teachers to ensure that her lessons are relevant to whatever the children are studying that term.

The school now provides, through peripatetic teachers organised through the music service, violin and trumpet tuition. We hope to extend this provision to include more instruments and are already in discussion with the music school.

Both groups had small concerts at the end of last year where they displayed their skills to both wider school and parents.

This is my fourth Headship and I have used the Hertfordshire Music Service in all the schools I have led. I would wholeheartedly and unreservedly recommend it.