

To: Headteacher, Music Co-ordinator

General observations of Good Practice

November 2007-11-27

In the past few weeks, Lambeth Music Service has visited over 20 Musitrax Projects in several schools. Feedback has been provided to tutors.

I am pleased to report that most projects are **good or excellent**. It has been heartwarming to see so many pupils working at a high musical level with obvious enjoyment and excitement. However, a few projects are operating at a satisfactory level.

This letter serves to highlight **good practice** in the schools where the project is working best:

- **All the class teachers and Teaching Assistants in the room are actively involved in the project, supporting the pupils' learning, by:**
 - playing an instrument,
 - singing,
 - joining in the activities
 - jointly planning the lessons with the LMS project leader
 - and in some cases leading part of the session.

- **Active involvement by all the adults is a necessary requirement for success for the following reasons:**
 - It is government policy that these sessions are not PPA time
 - A valuable opportunity for CPD for school- and LMS- staff is lost
 - Disengagement sends a signal to the pupils that "its OK not to take part"
 - The standard of behaviour is lower and the quality of learning suffers
 - All the schools which bid for the programme pledged their support for this

- **Logistics - the projects are working best where:**
 - there is sufficient, safe **storage for instruments**, and a routine for collecting them and packing them away efficiently before and after the lesson.
 - The whole class teaching room has enough space for the group to be set up with sufficient space around each pupil for **freedom of movement** and **safety of the instruments and pupils**.
 - The group can be set up for effective teaching and learning.
 - There are suitable breakout spaces for smaller groups.

In small, busy schools I can appreciate this isn't always easy, but the closer we can get to the ideal, the more effective the projects will be and the more the pupils and the school will gain.

Evaluation forms will be circulated to schools during the Spring Term, but please raise any concerns or issues as they arise.

Brendon Le Page

Lambeth Music Service

Bonneville Primary School, Bonneville Gardens, London SW4 9LB
t: 020 8772 1504, f: 020 8772 1533
enquiries@lambethmusic.co.uk