



Performing Arts

Home of Irresistible Learning



Performing Arts and Music at DESS



Welcome

We strive to be a vibrant, exciting, innovative and modern department that is inclusive of all children and all abilities. Children have so many opportunities to take part in Music and Dance activities during the year, from performing in front of their classmates to taking part in large scale events. We offer after school activities including Dance Squad, Key Stage 1 and 2 Choirs, beginner Clarinet, Music Theory, Samba, beginner Violin and Guitar Club. Children are then encouraged to take part in our yearly events including DESStive Day, International Shine Day, Choir Fest, Desert Dance and DESS Concerts. We also run a very popular training band programme where the children receive free group tuition in a brass or wind instrument, as well as an instrument to take home for the duration of the programme.

We run a very successful In-House Instrumental Music Programme that offers private tuition to students during the school day. This programme has been building over the last few years and currently one in five children at DESS receive tuition in areas such as Piano, Guitar, Percussion, Clarinet, Flute, Violin, Trumpet and Voice. This is available to students from Years 1 to 6 and offers an excellent opportunity to introduce your child to a musical instrument and greatly enhances their learning.

In the classroom, we believe in a child-led learning environment and that there are no barriers to learning. All of the children at DESS learn a new instrument in class including Tin Whistle, Recorder, Guitar, Xylophone, Keyboards and Ukulele.

We love being Music Teachers at DESS and we aim to instil a love of music into every child that we meet here.



Music Teacher



Sarah O'Hare graduated from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth with a Bachelor's Degree in German and Music. Having taught in post-primary schools in the Republic of Ireland for 12 years, she was responsible for preparing students for Junior and Senior State examinations. Several of her students have continued to study Music at University level. Having played Violin from an early age, Sarah has experience teaching Violin to students preparing for RIAM examinations. She enjoys playing traditional Irish music and regularly plays Concertina and Violin as part of a group.

Dance Teacher



Kirsty Cassidy graduated with a Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Physical Education and Dance from the University of Edinburgh. She has taught Dance in schools for 14 years at all levels and has worked in Dubai schools for the last 7 years. During her time teaching in Edinburgh, her dancers won numerous competitions and gained outstanding exam results. She has worked as a moderator for the Scottish Qualifications Authority and her pupils have achieved numerous successes, including performing for the European Headteachers Association.

Music Teacher



Aishling O'Boyle graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and Geography from the University of Ireland, Maynooth and pursued a career in Music teaching; graduating with a Post Graduate Degree in Education from the University of Sunderland, England.

Classically trained in Voice and Piano, she has extensive experience teaching Piano, Voice and Guitar and has prepared many children for musical examinations such as ABRSM and LCM.

Music Teacher



Niamh Mead graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music from University College Cork and a Diploma in Music Education from the University of Limerick. She moved to Dubai from Ireland over six years ago and has been teaching primary school Music since arriving here.

In Ireland, she taught Music and Drama for 15 years to both primary and secondary school children. She ran her own Musical Theatre group for four years before moving to Dubai, as well as teaching Piano and Flute privately, preparing children for Trinity and ABRSM examinations.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

At DESS, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children take part in two music lessons a week; enjoying singing to a variety of songs, using rhythmic instruments such as Shakers, Clavers and Castanets (and Xylophones for KS1) and simple movement.

Music ignites all areas of child development and the skills needed at school: intellectual, social and emotional, motor, language and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together.

Dance in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 is designed to bring movement and dance together through imagination, using materials they have learnt in the classroom and bringing it into dance and role play. Asking the children to explore the dance elements by using actions, space and control, dance is designed to enable children to explore and encourage thoughts and ideas through movement and role play.



Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 children take part in one music lesson a week comprising of instrumental studies, singing and music theory. Years 2, 4 and 6 will also have the chance to perform in an exciting production here at DESS.

Moving into our third year of our KS2 Instrumental Programme, each child from Year 3 to Year 6 will learn an instrument each year: Year 3 - Recorders, Year 4 - Ukuleles, Year 5 - Tin Whistle and Year 6 - Guitar. We are one of the only schools in Dubai to offer such an amazing and possibly life changing experience. It is wonderful to see how the children progress in their instrument and encourage self-expression.

There are many benefits of learning and playing an instrument:

- Improve memory skills.
- Improve hand eye coordination & fine motor skills.
- Improve listening and auditory skills.
- Improve reading and comprehension skills.
- Encourages responsibility, perseverance and discipline.
- Encourages self-expression and builds self-confidence.
- Provides a constructive outlet for stress.

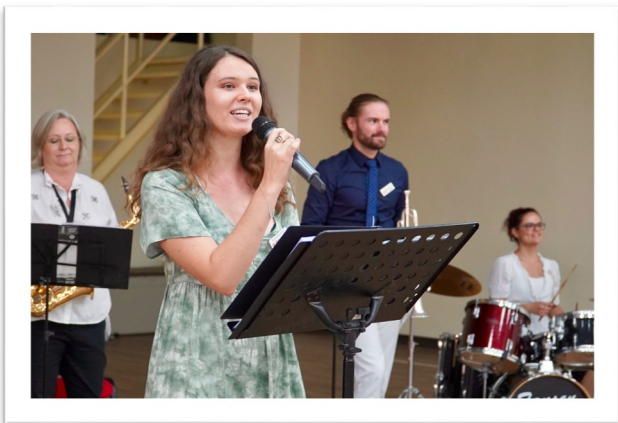


Instrumental Lessons

DESS Performing Arts department is proud to adopt an inclusive approach to music. Whether it is Classical or Pop, if your child wants to make music their hobby or even become a professional musician, we will make sure that they find joy and musical fulfilment through a personalised pathway that is right for them. Research shows that learning an instrument broadens the mind and teaches children resilience and creativity. Here at DESS, our host of accomplished in-house Musicians ensure that your child is paired with somebody who will inspire and motivate them.

Our in-house Musicians are truly world-class. Having played on numerous stages and with proven track records of success, their knowledge and expertise will provide an exceptional musical experience for your child. Collectively, they have played across five continents, recorded for television and radio and taught or studied in some of the best universities in Europe.

Give your child the gift of music and hear them flourish.



ECAs

We offer a collection of ECAs and encourage all children to sign up for at least one Music or Dance ECA during the year to broaden their talents. This year, we have a fabulous selection of clubs for beginners such as Clarinet, Violin, Samba Drums, KS1 Choir and Glee Club. We also have several ECAs for our more experienced musicians including Guitar, Elite Choir, Rock Band, Orchestra and Music Theory. This is an amazing opportunity for all.

Let's make music everyone's passion!

DESPA Academy

Established in 2014, Dubai English Speaking Performing Arts Academy (DESPA Academy) offers outstanding education in Musical Theatre and the Performing Arts, for children attending both DESS and DESC.

DESSC is the first and only school in Dubai to have its very own in house Performing Arts Academy. We are unique in the fact that we offer a carousel learning environment where students cover all three areas, Drama, Dance and Singing. We develop new and existing skills across the Performing Arts spectrum, giving our students the opportunity to work and perform alongside students of all ages from 3 to 18 years. Our classes are taught by highly experienced and qualified professionals who have backgrounds within the Performing Arts industry. With nearly 200 students taking part, DESPA continues to provide a fun and inspiring environment, nurturing confidence and developing skills for life.



Tracey Wilding, the founder of DESPA, graduated with Distinction from Chichester College of Performing Arts, Science and Technology. She went on to perform various roles at the prestigious Chichester Festival theatre and worked as a red coat entertainer for two years in Butlin's holiday camp, where she met and performed with many well-known British celebrities.

Joining DESS in 2007, her love for the arts quickly shone through and she joined forces with the Music department and Year 6 team, supporting the Choir and directing the end of term school productions.





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