

Introducing the Derby & District Organists' Association Educational Project

ASTOUNDING SOUND

The wonderful world of the pipe organ

We are able to offer schools a lively experience for pupils in which they can;

Hear and see a pipe organ being played by a professional
Have a go themselves
Find out about how sounds are produced
See how the mechanics work
Design an organ case
Enjoy a live musical experience
Understand how the organ is played.

The organ is a rich source of experience and learning related to KS 2. For example:

MUSIC: Listening and describing different sounds and patterns, evaluating a performance.

SCIENCE: Basic mechanics involving levers and other mechanisms: the use of different materials.

MATHS: Ratio and proportion.

What do the pupils actually do?

We start by listening to the organ, usually at full blast, which is very exciting and sweeps many children off their feet. We then usually have a brief explanation of how an organ works, using real pipes and including listening games and other simple activities to engage the pupils.

In the 'follow up' session pupils split into smaller groups and engage in a variety of activities that deepen their understanding of what they have already experienced. These come under 3 main headings:

How it works : looking at and playing a 'mini organ' – a specially designed table instrument. Viewing a variety of pipes that produce different sounds and discovering why this is the relationship between shape, length and sound.

How it's played: 1] watching an organist at work and learning about basic vocabulary and learning about the skills needed 2 trying out a specially adjusted pedal board to understand how the feet are used and 3] playing the main organ in the church.

What it looks like: looking at pictures of different instruments, experimenting with different arrangements of dummy pipes involving concepts of symmetry and proportion.

We usually finish with a **Listening** activity involving discussion of music played.

What does it cost ? The DDOA members offer their expertise free but we ask for a small donation [towards our increasingly costly travel] of £1 per child. The church may wish to charge the school for the cost of using the premises but in many cases they do not.

How long does it last and how many children can we bring ? our target time is 2 hours to enable us to make the visit really worthwhile. Our optimum number is about 25: 30 is the absolute maximum in order for the children to have a worthwhile experience.

Follow up materials for teachers are available at a small charge.

You might like to visit our website to see what a session looks like: www.derbyorganists.co.uk where you can also read comments from pupils and staff we have worked with over the last 6 years.

Who do we contact to set up a visit? The project Co-ordinator: Stephen Johns
annestephen.johns@talktalk.net. or 01332 - 764792

