

TUNING-IN/WIDER OPPORTUNITIES AT KS3

In 2000 the Government made a pledge that 'over time, all pupils in Primary Schools who wish to will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument'.

This laudable but rather idealistic statement has obvious resourcing problems both in terms of funding and staffing, but real efforts are being made by the DFES to address them.

The DFES, supported by Youth Music, put into place several pilot schemes in various parts of the UK, to explore models of delivering instrumental tuition to larger numbers of primary pupils.

These pilot schemes covered a wide range of musical activities, including strings, brass and world music being delivered to whole classes and large groups.

Interestingly, the Oxfordshire pilot used the 'Froseth' recorder teaching for two Terms as a pre-instrumental foundation course, leading into whole class string teaching in the third term.

So, it looks as if South Gloucestershire has been leading the way by offering this holistic approach for the last three years!

All schools should now have received the QCA Units of work which link class and instrumental teaching, and DVD entitled 'Tuning-in-Wider Opportunities' which explains and gives examples of the ethos.

Some schools have already contacted the Music Service for advice or to suggest joint activities to try to break down the perceived barriers between instrumental and class music, making it a seamless musical experience for the child, not an added extra.

Please don't hesitate to contact either Ian Rogers or Julia Bowen at the Music Service office, or to discuss the setting-up of a 'Froseth' programme.