

Manifest

High-quality music education

Music makes a unique contribution to children's development – scientific research has shown this time and again. The benefits of music include stimulating social-emotional development and brain development. This is why music education in primary school is so important. It is precisely music which lays down a structural basis for empathy, social bonding, quality of life, creativity, listening to others, and being open to differences – all indispensable values in our society. Music is everywhere, it is part of our daily lives. In the classroom, it creates a positive school atmosphere through which pupils connect with each other. In other words, music in the classroom isn't noncommittal – it is necessary! But what really constitutes good music education in primary school? And how can we join forces to make this happen in the Netherlands?

This is what high-quality music education in primary school looks like:

- High-quality music education in primary school structurally develops the skills, knowledge and attitude that all primary school pupils need in order to experience, perform and create music together and on their own.
- It gives pupils a wide range of musical experiences. Different genres and aspects of music are offered: not only singing (which is a natural starting point) and other types of music-making, but also activities such as listening, recording, moving, improvising and presenting.
- Pupils experience music in the classroom as pleasant and meaningful.
- High-quality music education in primary school makes pupils aware of their own musicality and its value, so that they can choose the role that music could play in their lives.
- It invites pupils – making music in groups and individually – to function in a musical world that they can identify and appreciate.

This is how we join forces to make this happen:

- Do it together: make sure that music education is supported and provided by a team made up of group teachers, an in-house musical expert, the school director, music teachers and other external cultural parties.
- Give teachers the space and tools they need to develop their didactic musical skills.
- Make the school a leader in collaboration with external parties.
- Make music education structural: ensure continuous learning pathways that the school can endorse based on its educational vision.
- Give music education a recognisable place in the curriculum, and merge it with daily instruction and the school culture.
- When teaching, remember that every pupil is different. Make contact with the children's musical culture and help them develop their creativity.
- Take advantage of digital media: ensure that music education remains based on the interaction between teacher and student, and between pupils themselves.
- Any level is a good starting level! Begin where you are, use what you have, and do what you can.

Call for collaboration

Not everything is accomplished instantly, but the best time to get started is now! High-quality music education in primary school also begins with the first seed that you plant. Take your next step today to have more music in the classroom.

Association of school
music teachers

Gehrels
music education



Dutch Association
of Music Education
Lecturers

Conference of music
teacher training
programmes