



Cleveland ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL CARNIVAL



Introduction

In 2016, Cleveland Junior School expanded to become Cleveland Road Primary School, bringing together two previously separate schools. As we became a much larger school (with over 900 pupils) we recognised the value that the Arts could have in creating unity and developing a school identity.

Whole-school Arts projects are a way to strengthen a sense of community within the school and to create links between year groups and floors for both pupils and teaching staff. The aim to create greater cohesion and consistency has been essential in the creation of the School Development Plan. We have actively sought and created opportunities for whole-school events, projects and performances, celebrating the Arts.

Cleveland Road Primary School Carnival embodied the spirit of togetherness that was an essential priority during our first terms as a full-through primary school. As part of a whole-school learning journey, which focused on the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil, we created our own Opening Ceremony inspired by the Rio Carnival. From Nursery to Year 6, the entire community rehearsed carnival dances and performed them in celebration of our school.



Process



The carnival was organised as part of the Brazil topic. Therefore, preparation for the event became a natural focus during PE and Art lessons.

Our full-time, in-house dance instructor created dances with each year group. These routines were filmed and written into a step-by-step guide for teachers to practise with their classes, independently.

All staff were working with the dance instructor and therefore received in-class CPD which supported them to teach, model and rehearse choreography.

In the warmer weather, we were able to practise in larger groups, in the playground, using a PA system. The additional practice space this afforded, provided increased rehearsal time while also creating a sense of excitement and engagement as pupils rehearsed in larger groups.



Impact

1. All children throughout the school, regardless of age, ability or skill, participated in the carnival. There were extremely high levels of engagement which helped to raise the profile of Dance and the Arts in our school.
2. As it was such a large project, teaching staff (both teachers and TAs), got involved with the rehearsing and performing aspects. This broke down a lot of barriers with regards to staff confidence and capabilities and many teachers commented on how enjoyable it was to take part with their classes.
3. The carnival created a strong sense of ownership as the children led many of the creative decisions such as the different choreography and costumes presented by each class.
4. The carnival was a wonderful celebration of the newly-formed Cleveland Road Primary School. From Nursery to Year 6, pupils were able to join together to perform for each other, across all phases. Siblings watching siblings; cousins watching cousins; and children becoming aware of the new growth in our school. It fitted perfectly with our school motto: *Together as One*.

