



Music Policy

Rationale

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way children feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. Music promotes children's spiritual, cultural and social development.

The learning of music develops an awareness and appreciation of musical traditions, from the past and present, in a variety of cultures and societies. This helps children understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between the home, school and wider world. The teaching of music develops children's ability to listen and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgments about musical quality. It encourages active involvement in different forms of music making, both individual and communal, developing a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment

Aims

We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

The aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- To provide all children with an education in music that is stimulating, enriching and inspiring through curricular and extra-curricular learning.
- To encourage confidence in all the children through their involvement in music thus promoting individuals interest, self –reliance and motivation.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation of different types of music and increase their ability to make judgments of musical quality.
- To teach music through a diverse Curriculum and the Creative Development area of learning from the Foundation Stage.
- To promote all the children's achievements in music within the school and the wider community.
- To provide all children with the opportunity to express themselves creatively and to develop their musical skills through an understanding of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, duration, timbre, texture and structure, using both instruments and voices.
- To develop performing, composing and appraising skills by applying listening skills and knowledge and understanding of music.
- To become increasingly aware of how music is produced, for example, through the use of instruments and musical processes including relevant symbols and notations.

Objectives

- know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is composed and written down;
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

Teaching and Learning Style

Lessons are based on individual and group work. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children:

- Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music;
- By listening they learn to appreciate different forms of music;
- Children are encouraged to express feelings and emotions when listening to music;
- Pupils are taught pulse and pitch;
- We teach them musical notation and composition;

Additional Music Teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons are normally taught to small groups or individual children who have chosen to learn one or a variety of instruments, such as the flute, clarinet, guitar, brass instruments, drums or keyboard. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, and usually takes place during normal lessons from which children are withdrawn for the duration of the instrumental lesson. A communication book is effectively used to help support Peripatetic teaching staff during their time in school. Requests for resources, planning musical performances and celebrating children's achievements are kept within this book.

(A list of children who receive music lessons and photographic evidence are kept within the Music Coordinator file).

Music Curriculum Planning

The school follows the National Curriculum through the LCC medium term plans which are adjusted to suit our needs. This enables a breadth of study in each class and at every musical level.

Non-specialist Staff are supported by 'Music Express' and through access to the Lancashire Music Service 'Charanga' which provides topical musical activities relating to songs from different genres and cultures.

Cross Curricular Planning

Music is considered on half-termly planning grids and should be included in themes and topics covered by each year group wherever possible. Music is sometimes used as a 'lead subject' within these unit plans. These cross curricular grids can be found on our school website.

Wider opportunities for music include singing in assemblies, during Class Masses and during Hymn practice which is a whole school activity that takes place weekly.

Teaching Music to Children with Special Educational Needs

At our school we teach music to all children, whatever their ability. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil.

Parents are given the opportunity to discuss their child's progress during parent evening appointments. Each year a written report is given to parents.

Resources

There are sufficient resources for all music teaching units in the school. We keep instruments for music activities in a central storage area. A variety of percussion instruments are available both tuned and untuned.

The music room houses a piano and a selection of brass, woodwind and stringed instruments.

Musical Events

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We run regular musical performances such as Nativities and Carol Concerts, Leavers' Musical Plays and shows.

We have a school band featuring a selection of instruments and involving children from Year 4 to Year 6 plus several staff members. As a member of the school band, children can learn to enjoy playing music in an ensemble and performing in front of an audience at assemblies or concerts.

The school choir is very popular for Year 5 and Year 6 children. The choir participates in the Young Voices Concert at the MEN in Manchester. The children also sing at charity events and support the elderly with concerts during the festive period.

Peripatetic music staff perform regularly with their pupils to showcase learning and develop other students listening skills whilst hopefully promoting interest in learning to play a musical instrument.

Monitoring and Review

The music subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching in music. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of music, being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school whilst also monitoring the relevance and upkeep of resources.

This music policy will be reviewed annually.

Subject Co-ordinator: K. Clarkson

Signed:

Date: