



St Mary's CE Primary School

N8 7QN

Music Policy

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

Our Vision

As we love, we flourish

As we flourish, we aspire

As we aspire, we achieve

Together, we are a family.

Friendship, Compassion, Hope, Wisdom, Community,
Endurance.

September 2021

Through our daily school life at St Mary's Church of England Primary School we encourage our children to build respectful friendships and demonstrate compassion towards others. Through this we build a strong community spirit, as together we are a family. Our teaching and learning provides the children with the wisdom and endurance they need to expand their minds socially, morally and academically so allowing them to achieve and flourish and fulfil 'Life in all its Fullness.' (John 10:10). We encourage our children to demonstrate and develop a dignity in their work and themselves which enables them to hope to aspire to be the best they can possibly be.

INTRODUCTION

According to the new National Curriculum "Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity" (2014)

With this in mind, music at St. Mary's is highly valued, not only because of the skills it can allow children to develop but also due to the enjoyment that every child can gain from the subject. Children are given opportunities to be actively involved in listening, composing and performing thereby developing their sensitivity to and understanding and enjoyment of the subject.

In KS1 and EYFS, children are immersed in an education that has singing and responding physically to music at its core. The skills they attain early in life are then developed in Year 3 when they are asked to compose and perform their own music, having gained more instrumental skills. By focussing on rhythm and pitch early in Yr 3, and playing glockenspiels and drums in lessons where the children get to put into practice the theory that they have been taught, they end up with some outcomes that are of high quality. In Year 4 they have access to the WCIT scheme, where whole classes learn (in small groups) the trumpet, clarinet, guitar or violin.

These skills are then used and developed in year 5 and 6 where some children are invited to continue their instrumental lessons, and in curriculum music lessons more composition and appraisal work is encouraged. We highly value singing assemblies, which bring a sense of belonging and enjoyment to the children at least twice a week. All of these musical activities together help the school ensure that they are reaching these four core goals:

Core Goal 1

Ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for ideally a year of weekly tuition on the same instrument.

Core Goal 2

Provide opportunities to perform and sing in assemblies, and as older children (KS2), play in ensembles and to perform with confidence.

Core Goal 3

Ensure that clear progression routes are available and free or affordable to all young people.

Core Goal 4

Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil is singing regularly and that children gain a sense of enjoyment and pleasure from being a part of a 'singing school'.

We strive to achieve this by

- a) Enabling pupils to be familiar with a body of musical knowledge, principles and vocabulary, to develop musical skills and become confident performers.
- b) Enhancing and extending pupils responses to music through listening, performing and composing.
- c) Enabling pupils to see that music has expressive and cultural value for individuals as well as value on a local or national level, and broadening their attitudes towards it.
- d) Employing teaching methods and resources that allow ALL pupils (irrespective of gender, ethnicity and academic ability) to have access to music and to experience success and enjoyment in their work.
- e) Encouraging music with cross curricular links.
- f) Providing the children with ICT opportunities in music.
- g) Allowing pupils to develop informed opinions and to be able to support them by reasonable argument.

Music assessment is mainly based on observation. When a teacher evaluates performing and composing the emphasis is on quality and effort. Observation is used to note pupil's understanding when listening and appraising, and self-assessment and peer assessment can also be invaluable. Audio/video recordings and photographs provide an opportunity for assessment and written recording can sometimes be a guide. However, Foundation stage assess music according to the Development Matters statements. The ELG (Early Learning Goal) is what is expected at the end of the Foundation year. At the end of every school year, teachers will assess and document pupil's musical ability based on all of the above.

St. Mary's is proud to be an inclusive school, and music is a subject that is accessible to all abilities and it is very important to us that every child is able to access lessons all the way through their education. Musical activities are particularly effective in the education of children with learning difficulties of any kind, ranging from physical to social to emotional problems. Music is broad and 'open-ended', providing opportunities to solve problems, to work independently, to work as a group and to be responsible for self-regulation. Most musical activities work well as class lessons and are appropriate for all children of any ability. In music, it is important that every child feels comfortable and is able to demonstrate their musical skills and compositions without feeling embarrassed and we endeavour to promote confidence and abilities of every child. Children are assisted with being taught through a wide range of teaching styles i.e kinaesthetic, visual and oral. Children are also encouraged to learn songs from other cultures to broaden their own understanding of the wide world and ensure that every child at the school feels included. In addition to this we have a range of musical instruments from other countries that all children have the opportunity to play and give them an insight into music from all around the world.