

MUSIC POLICY

Introduction

This policy outlines the aims, organisation and management for the teaching and learning of music at St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School.

It is based on the National Curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed January 2025

Aims

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. 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:

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 Music

At St Mary and St Benedict School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build the confidence of all children. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We also teach children how to work

with others to make music, how individuals combine together to make sounds and how to compose music to play together.

With support from the Wider Opportunities Funding, we provide the opportunity for all pupils in Key Stage 2 to learn to play a musical instrument. Currently, Years 3 and 4 are learning to play the Recorder and Years 5 and 6 are learning to play the Ukelele.

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;

setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);

grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;

providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child;

using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children

giving children the chance to perform in assemblies, hymn practices and collective worship.

Additional Music Teaching

Some children may be offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is supported and organised by Coventry City Performing Arts Service. These lessons are aimed at children registered as gifted /talented in Music. 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.

Children in Years 2 and 4 will have the opportunity to perform in the Mornings of Music held annually in local schools.

Music Clubs

There is a weekly Recorder club for Year 4 pupils on a Monday lunchtime. St Mary and St Benedict school host a weekly choir club with Armonico Consort. Children from the school's surrounding area are invited to join.

Curriculum Planning

Medium Term Planning

Teachers use the National Curriculum to plan teaching sequences that build learning over time. Where possible these will be linked to other subjects.

Short Term Planning

Weekly and/or daily lesson plans will follow school and phase guidance and be derived from the Schemes of Work.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

By the end of each Key Stage the pupils should have developed an understanding and enjoyment of music through activities taken from the Programmes of Study. Assessment of pupils' progress will be made against the learning outcomes for each unit of work.

Reporting to parents follows school guidance and procedures

Equal Opportunities

All pupils will have equal opportunity to reach their full potential across the music curriculum regardless of their race, gender, cultural background, ability or physical disability.

The repertoire of songs and listening material will be carefully chosen to represent a range of cultures.

Inclusion

The school's equal opportunities policy applies to the teaching of music as to all other subjects.

Resources

We will endeavour to provide sufficient resources for all music teaching in the school. We keep some resources for music in a central store and there is a set of percussion instruments for each phase. The library contains a good supply of topic books and there is computer software to support the composing of music.

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.

When we have a sufficient number of children learning a musical instrument, we provide opportunities when they can learn to enjoy playing music in an ensemble.

Through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people and build up good relationships. Music is the basis of many social activities and has an important role to play in the personal development of many young people. It has a vital role to play in building self-confidence. We provide times during the year when the whole school comes together to sing and share

their musical talents, e.g. Christmas carol concerts, masses, key stage musical productions.

Monitoring and Review

The overall responsibility for the music curriculum lies with the Headteacher.

The role of the Music Co-ordinator is :

- to co-ordinate the implementation of the music policy and schemes of work;
- to ensure progression and continuity in music throughout the school;
- to assist and guide colleagues in the delivery of the music curriculum;
- to ensure that adequate resources are available and are easily accessed;
- to attend relevant in-service courses.