

St Laurence Church Infant School

Music Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: May 2020

Next review due by: May 2023

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Music Policy

"Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon." (*National Curriculum 2013*)

Intent

Why do we teach Music?

At St Laurence Church Infant School we believe that Music provides our children with an opportunity to express themselves freely and to develop creatively. We believe that the skills our children develop through Music lessons help them to grow in confidence as individuals, and help them to develop thinking skills which are invaluable across the whole curriculum. As a church school we want our children to memorise a range of songs and hymns, through topic related work, weekly hymn practice and daily worship, and to use music as a vehicle for worship, helping us to appreciate God's beautiful world.

Implementation

How we teach Music

In EYFS we teach weekly learning themes and in KS1 we teach either half termly or termly topics. In EYFS, the children are given independent access to different instruments, allowing them to explore the different sounds they make, and providing them with a good foundation in this subject as they prepare to enter KS1. In KS1, Music lessons reflect the termly topic and are planned carefully to provide a progression of skills. These lessons focus on different areas of the curriculum, such as learning about different genres of music or developing composition skills. We aim to develop an awareness of music originating from different countries and cultures, to reflect Birmingham's multiculturalism.

How we plan Music

The Music co-ordinator meets with EYFS and KS1 leads to plan a delivery of lessons that suits the needs of each year group. The topics that the children will learn about are discussed, to ensure the Music lessons link with these topics. The subject co-ordinator then provides teachers with planning for each topic, carefully taking into consideration genres and composers that link with the learning focus. Each teacher then constantly assesses the progress of their pupils and modifies lessons accordingly.

How we teach Music in EYFS

In EYFS Music is taught through Expressive Arts and Design. Additionally, our yearly nativity plays provide the children with a fantastic opportunity to develop musical and performance skills. This leads directly into the progression of skills which are developed in KS1.

How we teach Music in KS1

Music lessons link closely to the current topic that is being studied, therefore allowing for cross-curricular links and a more rounded understanding of the focus topic. KS1 topics last either a term or half-term and Music lessons are planned to fit within this time frame, allowing for a progression of skills of a few weeks. For example, when Year One go on a trip to a mosque, Arabic music is the focus in Music lessons.

Cross-curricular links

Music lessons provide a wealth of opportunity for links with other subjects:

Design technology	making instruments
Science	how sounds are made and travel
PE	responding to music through dance
English	use of language, listening skills
Maths	pattern and sequence
Geography	Birmingham, different cultures and their music
History	the life and times of composers

Everyone to learn and grow with God

Art and Design
RE

responding to music through art
hymns and prayers

How we ensure all children access the Music curriculum

At St Laurence Church Infant School all children access the Music curriculum regardless of ability. When planning Music, children's varying levels of ability will be considered and differentiated accordingly, to ensure each child makes progress. The pace of teaching and learning will be reflected both in lesson planning and assessment. Children experiencing difficulty within a lesson will be provided with support and shown ways to adapt the task at hand.

How we develop music skills

In Year One we introduce the children to a range of skills, which they are then given the opportunity to develop in Year Two. We use a skills progression document to ensure that multiple skills are taught and to ensure that they evolve over the course of KS1. The techniques that we focus on are: using the voice expressively; listening, memory and movement; controlling pulse and rhythm; exploring sounds, melody and accompaniment; control of instruments; composition; reading and writing notation; and performance skills. We also teach the children to evaluate and appraise their work and the work of others using technical language, and to recognise the compositions of famous composers.

How we assess Music

As in all other areas of the curriculum, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Children are given immediate feedback during lesson time and steps to move their learning forward. Teachers use this knowledge to assess progress against the Music National Curriculum and the skills progression document. Teachers monitor the progress of each pupil through observation, assessment and record keeping, and the overall planning, teaching and assessment of Music is monitored by the Music lead. A subject action plan is written each academic year to identify targets for the development of Music. Children's progress in Music is reported to parents through the pupil annual report and termly consultation meetings.

Resources

There is piano in the school hall which is played daily whilst singing hymns in our time of collective worship. A wide range of song, hymn and teaching books are stored in the hall cupboard. A variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments are stored in the library area, including drums, xylophones, bells and claves, to name a few. The use of ICT is also encouraged during Music lessons, where there are many useful websites that allow children to explore sounds made by instrument families and to listen to all kinds of music. Useful websites such as "Espresso", "abrsm.org/classical100" and "www.emipm.com" are particularly useful.

Prior to the start of each topic, the subject co-ordinator meets with the EYFS and KS1 leads to ensure that all the necessary resources are available.

How is the teaching and learning of Music monitored?

The subject co-ordinator has regular discussions with class teachers about the delivery of the Music Curriculum. These discussions allow for planning to be updated and modified accordingly in order to best suit the cohort. The subject co-ordinator checks the timetables for each year group to ensure that adequate time is given to the teaching of Music. Support from the co-ordinator is offered in this subject through the observation of lessons. Pupil voice also plays an important role in the monitoring of this subject.

Impact

We want our children to enjoy exploring their creativity and become confident performers and composers. By helping our children to develop a variety of skills, and by allowing them to explore a range of instruments, we hope that they will leave our school with a range of musical skills embedded, ready to continue their creative journey in KS2 and beyond.

Review

This policy will be reviewed within the next 3 years or before if there are changes to the Music curriculum.

Date of policy May 2020

Date of review **May 2023**

Music Co-ordinator **Vicky Rumboldt**