

Music Curriculum

At St John's we work hard and aim high and are good friends to each other. Our Christian school is a happy place where learning together is fun.

Intent

Our Music curriculum intends to provide pupils with an understanding of music as a universal language and the contribution music makes to the world. Learning is structured as such that children revisit key skills, concepts and vocabulary as they progress throughout the school in order to develop an appreciation of music and a mastery of the subject.

Our values as a school are embedded in our music curriculum so that pupils work together, value and appreciate the contributions of others, be creative, open-minded and become equipped with the skills to develop as confident learners and critical thinkers. We ensure that all pupils, including those will SEND, can fully access the music curriculum through flexible and meaningful participation, rather than structured, uniform outcomes.

Learners will develop an understanding of what music represents across a wide variety of historical periods, countries, traditions and musical genres. Pupils are also actively encouraged to participate in music beyond the classroom and are provided with opportunities to develop their creativity and talent as unique musicians.

The music curriculum is structured in a way that provides our pupils with regular opportunities to engage in music and to revisit the following key skills and concepts:

- *Listening and Appraising*
- *Creating, Composing and Performing*
- *Understanding and Exploring*

Implementation

Music is led by the Subject Lead Teacher who regularly monitors, evaluates and reviews what is being taught and the resources available. The Lead Teacher supports staff subject knowledge, plans CPD and promotes positive opportunities for active involvement in music by both staff and pupils alike.

*All musical learning throughout the school is centred around the inter-related dimensions of music: **duration, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation**. This vocabulary is woven into our curriculum at every level of learning, from Reception through to Year Six, to ensure consolidation through reinforced language.*

The music planning offers a universal and adaptable design so that all pupils including those with SEND can become fully engaged in all that music has to offer. There are multiple ways to engage

within each lesson, from listening and movement to composition and using various technology. The primary focus is to celebrate participation, individual creativity and enjoyment.

In EYFS and KS1 learning embeds an understanding of the key inter-related dimensions and the principles of rhythm, pitch, composition, musical expression and informal musical notation. Pupils study a range of styles, genres and time periods becoming exposed to a broad variety of musical tastes. They are provided with regular opportunities to explore, compose and create music. This sets pupils up with a firm foundation with which to move into KS2.

In KS2, pupils learn the full range of inter-related dimensions vocabulary progressively. In Lower Key Stage 2, they begin to learn formal musical notation such as the staff and other musical notations through the learning of tuned instruments. This knowledge and understanding is then reinforced and developed through a wider understanding of music in Upper Key Stage 2 where pupils revisit key skills and concepts and explore the application of music in the world and throughout history.

In order for pupils to understand the impact of music on the world around them, a local study of Liverpool's world-renowned, innovative and influential music scene is incorporated into our programme of study to enable children to appreciate music and musicians from our own locality and the impact they have had in a broader historical context. This study is linked with cross-curricular studies of our local area and intends to inspire pupils to actively engage in music.

Beyond the classroom, a love of music is encouraged and shared through daily singing in assemblies, weekly hymn practices, concerts and productions both in school and church. All children have the opportunity to attend weekly music lessons through Lancashire Music Service, as well as becoming a rock band member through the Rock Steady scheme.

Impact

Through high-quality provision and regular opportunities to engage with music, our music curriculum is well-planned and personalised to ensure a clear progression of key skills and concepts and an enjoyment of the subject for all children, including those with SEND. Our learning environment promotes active participation and appreciation of all levels of skill and ability. Our curriculum aims to improve the wellbeing of all children St. John's, not only through the skills taught but also through the underpinning values and disciplines music promotes.

As music is a practical subject, assessment is achieved by focussing on solo or small group performances which are observed evaluated by teachers against the National Curriculum key skills, learning outcomes and end of year expectations. These performances are recorded and uploaded to pupils' learning journals via the school app, on a regular basis.

Impact and progression is measured not only against age-related expectations but also from individual starting points, ensuring equity for pupils with SEND. Monitoring will include evidence of inclusive practice, such as adapted tools, scaffolds, and assistive technology being used effectively to

remove barriers to learning. Impactful learning is also measured through monitoring active participation levels and through summative assessment which is completed at the end of each term to inform leaders of the improvements or skills that have been achieved and those that still need to be embedded.