

Music Policy



Member of staff responsible: Miss Barton
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Date approved by the full Governing body: June 2020
Date to be reviewed: June 2022

Mission Statement

St Clare's is a Christ-centred family where everyone is valued and respected. We learn and grow, whilst strengthening our relationship with God and one another. Together in His love, we can achieve our full potential.

Play, learn and grow together with Christ

1. Introduction

St Clare's Catholic Primary School believes in providing equal opportunities for all pupils through the provision of an inspiring education to enable all children to achieve their dreams. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies, which are available on the school's website. The policy for Music clearly sets out how I see this subject being developed and taught throughout EYFS, Key Stage 1 and 2 in relation to the National Curriculum.

2. My vision for Music

As the leader of this area for the school, I have a very clear vision of where I want to take the pupils on the next stage of their learning journey. Music prepares children to participate in our rapidly changing world. Music within the curriculum should allow children to think creatively, perform and develop a love of music, as well as to become problem solvers as individuals and as members of a team. They will combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, to be introduced to a range of musical performances as well as functions and performance techniques. This allows them to reflect on and evaluate music in the present and from the past, its uses and its impacts. 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 judgment about the quality of music.

3. What do we want for pupils within this subject?

Our Aims and Objectives

By the time they leave our school we want all pupils 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 and composing music.
- Develop a love of music.

4. How will we enable all pupils to learn and grow within this subject?

At St Clare's Catholic Primary 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 up the confidence of all our children. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structures and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer, and listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together. We also teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation and to compose pieces of music.

We do this by providing a high quality of teaching through:

- Setting 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

5. How will we ensure all children are fully involved in their learning?

Our school uses the Updated Music Express scheme of work (2016), these are based on the National Curriculum. We have adapted the music express scheme so that the topics the children study in music build upon prior learning. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are challenged as they move through the school. We carry out curriculum planning through medium term planning. The subject leader devises these plans in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group, particularly in KS1 with the mixed classes. The medium-term plans, that have been adapted from Charanga, give detail of each unit of work for each term. The subject leader is responsible for keeping and reviewing these plans. As we have some mixed age classes, we ensure that children have complete coverage of the national curriculum requirements, but do not repeat topics.

Our Music planning is organised into three aspects of progress:

1. Increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
2. Increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities;
3. Increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music making. Music may be taught each week or may be taught as a block.

6. How will we check how well each child is achieving and what progress they are making, and how do we set their next steps in learning?

Class teachers through marking and feedback of their work, which includes setting next steps to confirm and extend learning, will assess children's progress. The children will also be assessed annually in relation to meeting success criteria as stated in the Lancashire Key Skills Framework and assessed in terms of Entering, Developing or being Secure within the expectations of their year group. Monitoring of subject coverage across the school will take place through a mix of planning, Pupil Questionnaires, work scrutinises, lesson observations and termly curriculum auditing.

7. What further support will we provide?

It is important that staff are aware that Music has to be fully prepared and resourced in order to deliver effective learning experiences and the timing may need to be more flexible so that children can develop their thinking. It may be necessary to ensure that teaching assistants are available to support the children in practical activities. Health and safety issues should be considered at all times and if appropriate a risk assessment taken. Training opportunities will be accessed for all (or specific) members of staff as and when necessary.

8. When, and how, will this policy be reviewed and updated?

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's Long-Term Plan, unless the Subject Leader; the Senior Leadership Team or the Governing Body deems an earlier review necessary.

It will be reviewed by the Subject Leader in the first instance and then shared with the staff as appropriate. Once agreed with staff, the policy will be taken to the appropriate Governor Committee for comment and adoption on behalf of the school. At this time, it will be published on the school website and parents notified.