

Music Curriculum Statement

Mission Statement

Our school community is rooted in the Gospel and the vision of St. Catherine of Siena. This inspires each of us *'To be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'*

- We are called to love one another as we seek to be the best in all that we learn and do.
- We celebrate and nurture the gifts, talents and skills of everyone.
- We commit ourselves to grow together in faith, love and service.

More specifically, this means we aim to:



Intent

The teaching of Music in our school involves children responding to music individually and collectively. They are encouraged to extend their musical knowledge through choral and instrumental lessons, being encouraged to become competent, active members of choral groups as well as joining in with singing, listening, playing, performing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of genres. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the weekly hymn practice, singing squares, various concerts and performances, school masses and religious celebrations and through the learning of instruments.

Music is a valuable and important part of school life, and the emotional, social and spiritual development of our children. It provides an opportunity for the children to co-operate in both competitive and non-competitive ways.

The teaching of Music in our school takes account of a child's age, individual needs and ability, supporting educational inclusion. We aim to ensure that the music curriculum is made available to all children regardless of gender, ethnic origin or individual needs with due regard for their safety and well-being.

Implementation

At St Catherine's we offer a whole school approach to Music which has been embedded to enable children to take a full and active part in classroom music. It provides online learning for the pupils with interactive resources for the teacher. The 'Charanga Musical program' offers progressive units of work with cross curricular- links which ensure our teachers and support staff can access it without a particular specialism, using modelling, visual aids and notation. This gives our pupils with language barriers, SEND, pupil premium or behavioural difficulties, who may be very responsive to Music, a language through which to make sense of their emotions. As a result of its implementation, we are fulfilling the 'Listening and Appraising' and the 'Performing' aspects of The National Curriculum.

Our musical provision ensures coherent progression routes, free first access and also affordable music lessons. At Key Stage 1, the children are encouraged to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs, speaking chants and rhymes, to play tuned and percussion instruments and to listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high quality live and recorded music and to experiment with, create and combine sounds. In Year 2, pupils begin to focus on learning the tin whistle and ensemble playing.

In Key Stage 2, the children are given opportunities to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, use their voices/musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression, improvise/compose for a range of purposes, listen with attention to detail and understand /use notation. In Year 3, pupils learn to play the ukulele and begin to understand the basics of reading notation.

In Year 4, the children continue to further their understanding of simple notation by playing the glockenspiel in an ensemble. In Year 5, the children have further opportunities to play the ukulele and in Year 6, our pupils have opportunities to compose, innovate and perform using 'Garage Band' and the interactive keyboard to help develop their creative skills.

Tracking attainment using 'Otrack' is used widely to record the progress that pupils are making. These judgements are made using first-hand evidence of how pupils are doing, drawing together evidence from observations of class participation and performances, sampling of work and talking to pupils about what they have remembered about the content they have studied. Pupils are assessed as to whether they are meeting year-group expectations, working towards them or exceeding them.

Impact

We try to maximise the effect of musically experienced people within the school. We welcome outside specialists and peripatetic teachers from 'The Hub' who will advise and encourage our children and, where appropriate, arrange examination entrance. We also enjoy embracing other cultures and arrange for visits such as African drumming specialists

to visit our school to ignite children's enthusiasm for their learning and understanding of rhythm and pulse and encourage whole class participation.

Music has had a long tradition at St. Catherine's and has always had high profile and we demonstrate many examples of good practice. We have achieved success with our award-winning choir, winning many competitions over the years and in 2014 alongside all the children in the school, we were honoured to be asked to make a Christmas CD with the famous tenor Martin Toal. Each year, we are privileged to take part in 'Showcase' at The Royal Northern College of Music and for the past 16 years our choirs have taken part alongside our Year 6 children, in the 'Young Voices' Concerts at the Manchester Arena. Our enthusiasm to participate has led us to perform at amazing venues e.g. on stage at 'The Apollo' with the famous American band 'Foreigner' and the 'One Love' Concert at the Town Hall Manchester following the bombing of the Arena. Among our many achievements, our school choir has performed on 'Newsround' which was also recorded for 'The One Show' on TV in 2018.

In order to prepare the children fully for their commitment to our school choir, we run a training choir which takes place once per week which is open to all children and helps them to understand some of the techniques and dynamics of music which is an important part of being able to sing.

We maintain close links with our overseas Spanish exchange students so when they annually visit our school, they are able to take part in 'The Singing Square' with all classes in Key Stage 2, who are given opportunities to perform and sing songs in both English and Spanish to an audience.

Through INSET, teaching and support, staff work collaboratively in practical situations to gain further confidence and understanding in the planning and delivery for a high-quality Music curriculum. Monitoring the effectiveness of teaching and learning in Music takes place to ensure continuity and progression so that children are gaining valuable skills, knowledge and experiences.