

Music at St. Mary's.

At St. Mary's we let our light shine by performing, experiencing and appreciating every aspect of Music.

Intent

"Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. 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." (The National Curriculum)

Music is more than a subject – it surrounds us, fuels our emotions, is engrained in every culture and is necessary to human existence and navigating life. Skills that can be learnt and fostered within the music curriculum are diverse and can be used everywhere; listening skills, collaboration, concentration, self-control, time management, problem-solving, patience, adaptability, to name just a few.

At St. Mary's we have a holistic approach to music where all of these ideas are brought together within the individual learning strands of performing, listening, composing, the history of music and experiencing and appreciating the music of a wide variety of cultures. Wherever possible, Music experience will link to other areas of the curriculum such as history, geography and RE.

Lessons enable children to develop their skills, appreciate a wide variety of music and begin to appraise a range of musical genres. The aims of our Music curriculum are to develop pupils who:

- Enjoy and have an appreciation for music.
- Listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, cultures, styles and traditions.
- Can sing and use their voices to create different effects.
- Improvise, create and compose music, both on their own and with others.
- Use a range of musical language confidently and accurately.
- Make judgements and express personal preferences about the quality and style of music.
- Take part in performances with an awareness of audience.

At St. Mary's we believe that music plays an integral role in helping children to feel part of a community, therefore we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music both in class and to an audience. Through Collective

Worships and key stage performances, children showcase their talent and their understanding of performing with awareness of others.

Implementation

Music at St. Mary's is taught on a unit basis, weaving together the individual learning strands. During weekly lessons, over the course of each unit children will be taught how to sing fluently and expressively, and play tuned and untuned instruments accurately and with control. They will begin to recognise and name the inter related dimensions of music - pitch, duration, tempo, texture, timbre, structure and dynamics and use these in their improvisations and compositions, using appropriate notations.

At St. Mary's, we are aware that -

- Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- Interleaving helps pupils to discriminate between topics and aids long-term retention.
- Retrieval of previously learned content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength

As such, previous skills and knowledge are returned to and built upon in every lesson. Lessons incorporate independent tasks, paired and group work as well as improvisation and teacher led performances. Each lesson can be accessed by all pupils and opportunities to challenge are also built into lessons.

Children have access to a selection of tuned and untuned percussion within school and for a term in Year 4 the children learn to play the ukulele through teaching by a member of Somerset Music. Each Christmas, KS1 and Foundation Stage perform a Nativity play where children come together to learn and perform a variety of genre of songs alongside a telling of the nativity story through drama. At Harvest time each Key Stage learns a song to be sung at an in-school service led by our local vicar and at the end of the academic year, Year 6 perform a leavers' song. At Easter, KS2 put together an Easter service where songs are learned and performed to an audience alongside a subjective retelling of the Easter story from each year group.

Music has no boundaries and can transport you to another world. It has no bias and favours no-one. Our curriculum and musical ethos allows everyone to participate – collaborative musical experiences such as our singing assemblies enable all children, irrespective of ability, age, beliefs or friendships to come together, share a creative process and perform together. The whole school takes part in a Sing Up national participation event and a KS2 and Year 2 Choir performs locally following weekly practice sessions. Our singing assemblies also allow for an appreciation of music with time set aside for discussion of music from a wide variety of cultures and genres.

Impact

At St. Mary's our Music Curriculum is planned to demonstrate progression and build on and embed current skills. We focus on progression of knowledge and skills in the different musical components and teaching of vocabulary also forms part of the units of work. If children are participating and achieving the knowledge and skills in lessons, then they are deemed to be making good or better progress.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Pupil discussions and interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Governor monitoring with our subject music link governor.
- Annual reporting and tracking of standards across the curriculum.
- Photo and video evidence of the pupils' practical learning.
- Use of the assessment tools provided within the Kapow scheme and our own internal Insight assessment tool.

Ultimately, all children at St. Mary's will develop a confidence as performers, composers and listeners and will be able to express themselves musically at and beyond school. They will show an appreciation and respect for a wide range of musical styles from around the world. They will also demonstrate and articulate an enthusiasm for music and be able to identify their own musical preferences. Ultimately, they will have instilled in them a love and appreciation for music which will hopefully last a life time.