

St Mary and St Michael Catholic Primary School



***“Learning together as we follow in the
footsteps of Christ”***

Music Policy

Reviewed: January 2024

Update: January 2025

Intent

At St Mary and St Michael Catholic Primary School, we place our children at the heart of everything we do and offer them an engaging Music curriculum where every child has the right to high quality teaching and learning opportunities. 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 our 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 judgements about the quality of music.

Statutory Requirements

Statutory requirements for the teaching and learning of Music are laid out in the Bailiwick of Guernsey Curriculum and the Music Entitlement Document. For Early Years, children are able to access musical skills and techniques through the Expressive Art and Design element of Development Matters.

Music Bailiwick Curriculum Aims

Learners should build secure knowledge of the following:

- a. How creative ideas can be developed in response to different stimuli and imaginative thinking.
- b. How different art forms communicate and evoke moods, thoughts and ideas.
- c. That designing, creating and performing require discipline, control, technique and practice.
- d. How and why people from different times and cultures have used the arts to express ideas and communicate meaning.
- e. That accepted forms and conventions can give structure and purpose to artistic works but can be adapted and changed.

The objectives of teaching music in our school are to enable children 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, composing and analysing music.

Listening and Analysing

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to and appraise music, using increasingly progressive musical vocabulary in order to articulate their views and opinions
- Describe the character, mood or story of a piece of music, using increasingly progressive musical vocabulary in order to describe their viewpoints and opinions
- Discuss the purpose of music, using technical vocabulary, with an increasing awareness of the genre, style and tradition of music

Composing

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Improvise, compose and arrange music with increasing awareness of; dynamics, tempo, timbre, style, rhythmic variation and melody
- Use graphic notation to represent the details of their composition. Children will also explore rhythmic notation, and the use of musical vocabulary to label and record their compositions, progressing to the use of staff notation

Performing

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Sing with increasing control of breathing, posture, diction, dynamics, phrasing, pitch and duration. They will also sing with increased melodic and rhythmic accuracy
- Play tuned and untuned instruments, using appropriate playing techniques and with increasing dexterity, control and accuracy
- Practise and evaluate their performance and the performance of others and reflect on areas for improvement
- Show a strong awareness of pulse and rhythm through their performances
- Perform in a variety of contexts including; solo, duet, small group and whole class performances. Children will also have the opportunity to perform to; small groups, their class, and the whole school

The Inter-Related Elements of Music

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Develop their range of technical vocabulary and use this in providing critique of others' music, and in composing their own music
- Children develop a securing and advancing knowledge and awareness of the following terms; pitch, duration and rhythm, dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture, structure

Musical Events and Opportunities:

All children will have the opportunity to:

- Access opportunities provided by the Schools' Music Service, i.e. a ten-week programme of musicianship in Year 2, a programme of practical music making in Year 4, in school music lessons provided by peripatetic music teachers, access to music lessons and the music service choir (delivered on a Saturday)
- Sing regularly with others, developing an increasing awareness of rhythm, phrasing, pitching etc.
- Access live musical performances from an external performer

Implementation

Within each year group, two units of music are taught, using the Kapow scheme of work. These units have been chosen in order to complement the Guernsey Bailiwick Curriculum and ensure good curriculum coverage. As well as consolidating prior learning, the selected units of work ensure good progression of skills and knowledge through the teaching and learning of new material. These units are split into two-weekly blocks and are spaced out throughout the year. This spaced practice, ensures that skills and knowledge are retrieved regularly. Children are encouraged to compose music, sing songs and play a variety of rhythms and engage in a variety of musical performances, including the termly school talent show. In addition, the Schools' Music Service deliver a 'Wider Opportunities' scheme in which all Year 4 children have the opportunity to learn an instrument for one half term of the year. The Schools' Music Service also deliver a bespoke unit of work to Year 2 pupils in the Autumn term.

In addition to timetabled music units, children also receive exposure to a variety of music through; weekly hymn practise sessions, extra-curricular activities and lessons on tuned instruments via the Schools' Music Service. Through our weekly hymn practise sessions, children listen to and sing a variety of modern and traditional hymns. KS2 children are offered the opportunity to join a Choir (which is run on a Thursday lunchtime and led by the Music Subject Leader). Those who participate in choir are taught to embrace the joy of singing for pleasure and children actively participate in selecting the songs that they wish to sing. Children are also given the opportunity to perform their songs; through our termly talent show, to the members of the Trip Down Memory Lane group (Alzheimer's society), and through a variety of other performances. In KS2, children are given the opportunity to learn an instrument, with lessons provided by the Schools' Music Service. These children are also given the opportunity to attend music lessons on a Saturday morning. In addition to this, the children also experience music throughout other areas of the curriculum, i.e. times tables songs, the continents song etc. As well as this, all children participate in a yearly Christmas performance, in which they learn songs and use percussion instruments in portraying the story of the nativity.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In the EYFS, music is strongly embedded within its curriculum and provision. As well as delivering adult led music inputs (drawing on Kapow), children also receive daily, adult-directed singing time, where they learn a variety of different songs, including; nursery rhymes, counting songs, celebration and occasion songs, songs from other cultures and silly songs. These songs are usually related to their learning for that week; i.e. when learning about our bodies, EY learnt 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. In addition to this, children have access to the music wall whilst in continuous provision. This is enhanced with various other materials and instruments throughout the year. Adults support throughout provision, encouraging children to think about key aspects of music whilst exploring this area of provision. Children are encouraged to perform their music, understand the use of digital technology in recording their music and are supported to reflect on their own and others' compositions, using age-appropriate vocabulary.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Creating, performing or listening to music can sometimes be a moving and even spiritual experience. We encourage children to reflect on the important effect that music has on people's moods, senses and quality of life. Children at St Mary and St Michael School have the opportunity to encounter music from many cultures and, through their growing knowledge and understanding of the music, they develop more positive attitudes towards other cultures and societies. As a catholic school, our children have a strong awareness of religious music, such as; hymns, and the use of reflective music to create a prayerful atmosphere. Our children are aware that music can trigger many emotions. A weekly hymn practice is held for both key stages and the children lead the singing in assemblies and liturgical prayer opportunities.

Sharing of Music

Success and participation in music is celebrated via performances, including:

- Annual performances, such as Christmas services, which give each child an opportunity to participate and perform to an audience
- Smaller scale performances of groups/individuals in class, whole school assemblies and presentations
- Liaison with the community – the choir is involved in performances at Christmas, singing to charity groups
- We also provide opportunities throughout the year for budding musicians to perform for the school community. This includes solo and ensemble performances as part of a Talent Show

Using their knowledge of the class, Class Teachers are aware of and provide tailored support to SEND children and the first 20%, selecting strategies that are known to be effective for these children. Where further support is required for children to access the learning, Class Teachers draw on advice and support from the Music Subject Leader.

Assessment

Class Teachers assess children's ability in Music through responses to questioning and observation of practical musicianship within the classroom. The Music Subject Leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching in music. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of music, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for music in the school. The music subject leader assesses pupils through key book looks at the end of Years 3 and 6, as well as periodic pupil voice conferencing.

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