



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Music Policy

Aims and objectives:

"Where words fail, music speaks" Hans Christian Anderson

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and we believe it plays an important part in the personal development of our pupils.

- Music allows our pupils to **REFLECT** and links closely with their spiritual and personal development.
- All pupils at St Gregory's will learn at least one (and up to 3) instrument/s during their time here. We encourage and develop great **RESPONSIBILITY** for their instrument and to their practice.
- To learn to play a musical instrument, understand the elements of music and to read music notation, takes great **RESILIENCE** which we nurture and support through home-school agreements for instrument loans, individual lessons and the Wider Opportunities programme.
- 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 and develops **CURIOSITY** for different cultures and ideas. We ensure children experience a broad range of quality live and recorded music from cultures across the world; these experiences are built upon with high quality, planned lessons.

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 appreciating music.

Purpose of Study

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. 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.

National Curriculum Music (2014)



At St Gregory's, Music plays an important part in our wider curriculum. It is sometimes integrated into topics, and sometimes taught discretely to ensure the coverage of skills and knowledge. Please see our knowledge organisers on the website for details.

When teaching music discretely, most classroom teachers use 'Charanga Musical School' to support their lessons.

Through the Charanga Musical School programme the children develop their understanding, make musical judgements, apply their new learning, develop their aural memory, express themselves physically, emotionally and through discussion and create their own musical ideas. The wide range of core resources have been developed specifically to motivate and capture each individual's personal interest.

The children not only learn about music; they become musicians who are able to share and perform using their new skills.

However, teachers at St Gregory's recognise the limitations of solely using Charanga for our music lessons and therefore we work hard to plan our own units of work that extend the Charanga units, or replace them completely in some terms.

We are also passionate about providing pupils with access to high quality live music. Therefore, we link with the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra to provide planning and training for teachers. Two year groups each year also gets to visit the Philharmonic to take part in a special school's concert that embeds their learning for that term. We financially support this through the school music budget as we are keen to improve our pupils' capital culture with access to high quality live music.

Aims

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- **perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians**

National Curriculum Music (2014)

A wide range of styles and genres are studied, including some of the great composers and musicians (e.g. Saint – Saëns, Beethoven). Please see our knowledge organisers for details.

- **learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence**

National Curriculum Music (2014)

Singing is central to St Gregory's. All pupils take part in regular Hymn practices and sing in parts during these sessions. Through the Charanga units improvisation and composition for voices form part of each unit and can be used as starting points for further creative work.

- **understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.**



National Curriculum Music (2014)

Throughout school the children are encouraged to behave as musicians and explore the dimensions using their voices, body percussion and instruments. Staff and other notations can be introduced gradually supporting musical development so that the children sing and play first before being shown how this can be represented on a score. There are numerous resources to support this on Charanga such as the rhythm grids, the Musitrax course which introduce rhythm patterns, a reduced staff and then full staff notation. There is also a vast library of notated pieces for all instruments. In Year 3, pupils study the Glockenspiel in detail and learn to play a piece together as a class. In Year 4, pupils are taught the recorder as a class and learn to read simple staff notation. During the Spring and Summer term in Year 4, the Wider Opportunities programme begins in a Woodwind instrument (Clarinet or Flute). These sessions are led by a specialist from Lancashire Music Service and feed into our individual lesson programme and the local Music Hub. This programme continues into the Autumn term in Year 5. Finally, in Year 6, all pupils learn the Ukulele as part of a whole-class teaching programme. The class performs to parents during assemblies and special occasions. Instruments are provided by the school.

Assessment

Music is assessed in the same way as other curriculum subjects (History, Geography, Art, DT, Computing). Objectives are given to children at the start of each topic in their books (if used) and highlighted **Green**: For pupils who have met the objective, **PINK**: For pupils who did not meet the objective. This assessment is shared with parents at Parents' Evening.

This data is then transferred onto a class tracking sheet which is handed to the Music subject leader. The Music lead tracks the progress of pupils and classes. This enables groups of pupils to be tracked and catered for. This data is fed back to Governors (including the school's nominated Music Governor) on a termly basis.

Pupils who are identified as Greater Depth or Gifted and Talented are then catered for in lessons and given opportunities to perform outside of lesson (e.g. in church, hymn practice). Pupils who are working below the expected standard for their year group are supported in their learning, the Music leader supports and challenges staff with this process. Pupils with SEND are fully involved in all Music lessons and adapted instruments are provided if necessary.

At the end of the year, teachers are asked to use all the data from the year to make a final, end of year statement about each pupil. This is then shared with parents on their written report.

Monitoring and Evidence

Our curriculum for Music is detailed in the curriculum overview available on the school website.

Music is monitored yearly as part of the school cycle, but more frequently as part of the informal, ongoing monitoring culture at St Gregory's. Evidence of our Music lessons is collected on See Saw and in books (where appropriate to age and topic).

Our curriculum and music provision is externally monitored regularly as part of the Lancashire Music Service and from this we set ourselves targets to improve our practice.



Additional music teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is provided by Lancashire Music Service. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons are normally taught to small groups of children who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the Clarinet, Saxophone, flute and Keyboard. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, but usually takes place during curriculum time. We support disadvantaged pupils with these lessons as part of our Pupil Premium funding.

We also work closely with Chorley Music Centre held on a Monday evening at Southlands and signpost pupils that may benefit to take part in lessons and ensembles there. Several of our pupils engage with our local Music Hub at Southlands.

Updated September 2022

Mrs J Molyneux

Subject Leader

