



Music Policy

'Learning and growing together: inspired by the love of Jesus'

Our Mission Statement lies at the heart of all that we do and helps us to define our sense of direction and purpose.

Our curriculum is designed around what makes a Catholic school distinctive and reflects the key areas identified by The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 2014. These include:

- The Search for Excellence
- The Uniqueness of the Individual
- The Education of the Whole Person
- The Education of All
- Moral Principles

Intent – How is the school's curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment?(Ofsted Handbook 2019)

The curriculum for music has been set in light of the requirements of the National Curriculum:

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.

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***
- ***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***
- ***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.***

At St Aidan's we are committed to ensuring the effective delivery of a music curriculum that is **accessible** to all our children. Music is a **practical, creative** subject, which should enhance the lives and learning of all children. Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the **personal development** of an individual. Music reflects our culture and society and so the

teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in and when done thoughtfully can serve to **close cultural gaps** in childrens' knowledge, skills and understanding.

Our aim is to promote **enthusiasm** for and **enjoyment** of, music in all its forms and also to develop musical skills and knowledge. By engaging children in musical experiences we can offer our children opportunities to develop skills, attitudes and attributes that can support learning in other areas as well as developing **life skills** such as listening skills, the ability to concentrate, creativity, self-confidence and a sensitivity towards others.

The curriculum has been **planned** as a clear framework that guides teachers and children through weekly objectives that have been **sequenced** to ensure knowledge, skills and understanding are retained and remembered.

Implementation - Teachers have good knowledge of the subject(s) and courses they teach. Leaders provide effective support for those teaching outside their main areas of expertise; Teachers present subject matter clearly, promoting appropriate discussion about the subject matter being taught. They check pupils' understanding systematically, identify misconceptions accurately and provide clear, direct feedback. In so doing, they respond and adapt their teaching as necessary without unnecessarily elaborate or individualised approaches.(Ofsted handbook 2019)

Music Curriculum Planning

At St Aidan's Catholic Primary School we use the **Charanga Musical School Scheme** as the basis for our curriculum planning in music. Our long-term and medium-term plans, give **details** of each area to be taught for each term or half term.

The Charanga Musical School Scheme provides teachers with **week-by-week** lessons for each year group in the school from ages 5-11. It is ideal for specialist and non-specialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, **clear progression**, and engaging and whiteboard resources for every lesson. The Scheme supports all the requirements of the national curriculum and is absolutely in line with published Ofsted guidance.

Other music activities to support and extend this scheme include:

- Membership of the Sky Music hub which includes music specialists working with curriculum leads across Knowsley and Sefton
- Use of Knowsley Music and Performing Arts service within Knowsley to engage outside teachers to support in teaching more challenging instruments eg brass ensemble
- Use of other external agencies to promote learning musical instruments and after school provision eg ukulele.
- Attendance at external events such as Peace Proms Liverpool/ Young Voices Manchester with the School Choir
- Children also learn hymns for services/ assemblies during the Liturgical Year.
- School Choir visits to local community including Care Homes and the local hospital - learning songs from the past eg Buddy Holly

It is the music subject lead's responsibility to ensure children have the opportunity to build upon **prior learning**, which is taught and developed through the whole school progression map for history.

EYFS

We encourage creative work within EYFS as this is a part of the Early Years curriculum. We look to introduce, practise and develop these skills by **teaching and modelling** and then encouraging children to apply these skills independently.

We enhance the **Expressive arts and design Early Learning Goal** as a starting point for developing early knowledge, skills and understanding in history:

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology

The range of experience encourages children to **make connections** between one area of learning and another and so extends their understanding.

We provide a **rich environment** in which we encourage and value creativity. We give them the opportunity to work independently, within small groups and alongside other adults.

Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Key Stage 2

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

At St Aidan's, we know that effective teaching of this subject requires **expertise** and **knowledge** on the part of the teachers. We commit to engaging with training where available for all staff and for the subject leader to remain a point of help and advice. We also retain membership of **Sky Music Hub** and **Knowsley Music and Performing Arts service** as a further source of **external advice** and **expertise**.

We use **key facts** within each topic to form the basis of the **planned programme** and use questioning and observation to **check** childrens' understanding and deeper learning. We look to be persistent in asking children to **remember** what they have learned.

Feedback in the music lesson will be positive and formative in developing key skills, knowledge and understanding.

Impact - Pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well.

Assessment and recording

The impact and measure of this, is to ensure that children at St. Aidan's Catholic Primary are equipped with musical skills and knowledge that will enable them to be **ready** for the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for life as an **adult** in the wider world.

We want the children to have thoroughly **enjoyed** learning about music, therefore encouraging them to undertake new life experiences now and in the future.

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

- Assessing children's understanding of the topic using the Charanga tools made available as part of the scheme.
- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- **Interviewing** the pupils about their learning (pupil's voice).
- Through book **scrutinies** and **learning walks** and how this **reflects** the planned programme **faithfully**.

We are moving towards a clearer picture of what age related and greater depth will look like in the primary phase.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of music across the school which are stored in a central resource area.

Monitoring and review

Our music leader monitors this subject through scrutiny of floor books or examples of work for each year group, observing lessons/learning walks and through pupil voice feedback. This monitoring will reflect the 'deep dive' methodology applied to other subjects by senior leaders. It is also the responsibility of our music leader to support colleagues in the teaching of music where and when applicable.