

*West Ashton Church of England
Primary School*



MUSIC POLICY

Dated: 2020

Date of review: September 2021

'You will shine among them like stars in the sky.'

Philippians 2:15 (NIVUK)

Introduction

Musical Education at West Ashton Primary encompasses many different forms, each of which gives children knowledge and understanding of the subject in order to become more competent, confident and motivated in musical exploration. Music is so much a part of children's lives, that they often do not even notice it. The curriculum is designed to not only build awareness, but also to raise aspirations and open the children up to the potential of music in their lives and as a way of enjoyment. Music study is also considered a valid career that children might wish to take on later in life.

Charanga is used as a platform for musical study in addition to weekly assemblies during which children learn how to enjoy their voices, pitch notes correctly and sing as a group together. This bolsters confidence and allows children to attain a sense of achievement when working as a collective. We believe this helps language development and self-confidence in a non-threatening, friendly environment. Those children who might be reticent to join in during lesson time, can easily take part and feel a sense of belonging when singing together. Children have opportunities to perform publicly, such as Young Voices, as members of community choirs or as part of a class assembly or production.

Children in Reception develop knowledge of sound, songs, music and instruments from the very beginning of the year and throughout their time in Reception. They have continual access to musical instruments where they can explore the different sounds that musical instruments make and how they can be played differently to create a new sound. They use songs, music and dance as a way of expressing themselves freely during their independent learning time but equally teachers use music throughout the curriculum. For example, the use of musical instruments in Maths lessons supports children's understanding of pattern. The knowledge of music and the experiences on offer throughout their Reception year provides children with the confidence and knowledge to begin the next stage of their education in KS1.

Intent

At West Ashton, we aim to engage, motivate 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.

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.

Music teaching ensures the progressive development of musical concepts, knowledge and skills. Our Music curriculum reflects world we live in and the experiences and messages of those who create music.

We recognise that music plays an important part in helping children to feel part of a community and so we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop their skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

Children at Key Stage 1:

- 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

Children at Key Stage 2:

- 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.

Extended learning and Clubs

A music club is held throughout the year in preparation for the mass performance of Young Voices. These activities are designed to be focussed, fun and engaging for all who attend, contributing to children's learning in school, wellbeing and mental health.

Special events take place regularly during the year. These take place in all year groups and are designed to foster an inclusive, group approach, so that children share the joy of taking part in - and making - music. All children have opportunities to attend Music events at different times throughout the year and can represent the school in different ways, whether it is through assembly, during Spring concerts, church services or Christmas Carol concerts.

The curriculum is designed to be both progressive and cumulative, allowing children to not only revisit skills taught previously as they progress through the school, but also to improve upon them and feel a sense of achievement as they do so. As the children move through the school, so their lessons change and adapt to reflect their growth. Skill based work extends into exploration of World music, which in turn develops their ear for melody and rhythm, thereby giving them confidence to begin analysing music they hear with the correct language and terms. This ground up approach allows children to feel a sense of success, and the differentiation built into the lessons ensures all can take part.

Equality

Positive attitudes towards music are encouraged, so that all pupils, regardless of race, gender, ability or special needs, including those for whom English is a second language, develop an enjoyment and confidence with the subject.