

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



## Music Policy September 2016

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

### Introduction

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, reflection and emotional development. Active involvement in different forms of amateur music-making, both individual and communal, helps to develop a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic awareness, sensitivity and fulfilment. St. Mary's School provides opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, and to develop the skills to critically appreciate a wide variety of musical forms.

### Aims

The new 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

Music at St. Mary's should also be seen as a vehicle for the building of children's self-esteem, confidence and self-discipline and the enhancement of life skills.

### Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study according to the subject content of the new National Curriculum for music.

### Teaching and learning style

At St. Mary's School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them simple musical notation and how to compose music.

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child.

### Music Scheme of Work planning

St. Mary's School primarily uses the A & C Black 'Music Express' scheme as the basis for its curriculum planning for Reception up to Year 6. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the planned progression built into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. Teachers may also use music and songs other than from 'Music Express' which fit in with the unit of work they are doing.

Our music planning is geared to three aspects of progress:

- increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
- increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities;
- increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music making.

## Staffing

Pupils are taught music by their class teachers.

## Learning Resources

A range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments are available for use in music lessons and are stored in the small hall in 2 trolleys. In addition, each year group also have a box of tuned and untuned percussion instructions to use for lessons.

A portable CD player is available in each class room.

The scheme of work for music 'Music Express' using the new National Curriculum for each year group is kept by the class teachers. There are also singing resources for each year group to extend and enhance the 'Music Express' scheme.

## Spiritual development

In order to develop aesthetic awareness and an enjoyment of music, lessons are planned to ensure that pupils receive satisfying and exciting musical experiences.

## Personal and social development

This is promoted through music activities. There is a special emphasis on sharing resources, in "taking turns" and on listening to each other's views.

## Inclusion

Through differentiated activities, all children will be able to participate in the music lessons.

## The school choir and musical events

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have a school choir which we encourage all children, from year 3 onwards, to join. The choir meets on a weekly basis and, although its primary aim is to enable children to enjoy singing together, it also performs in public on a number of occasions throughout the year, for example at the Christmas carol concert and at school concerts in the summer term, as well as any other opportunity which may arise. Parents are encouraged to attend musical performances where applicable.

St. Mary's School also have annual musical productions involving the Year 3 and Year 4 children.

Other events include singing workshops organised by the Enfield Music Service and visiting musicians giving demonstrations to promote specific instruments.

Key Stage 2 children have also benefitted from the Wider Opportunities funding and workshops in the iGospel project and Enfield Sings projects for junior children which take place throughout the year with a performance for parents at the end. Infants are involved in the Songsack workshops with performances for parents at the end.

All pupils have the opportunity to take part in instrumental tuition provided by the Enfield Music Service. At present, this is for piano, keyboard, violin, guitar and recorder. For the past few years, Year 3 children have received whole class recorder lessons for two terms.

### Weekly Infant and Junior Hymn Practice

St. Mary's School have separate weekly Infant and Junior hymn practices which take place on Wednesday afternoon. Pupils practice known hymns and learn new ones. Pupils sing hymns for Mass, benediction, assembly and special occasions in the Church calendar. They may also sing hymns in RE lessons or in class worship.

### Assessment and record keeping

Teacher assessment is incorporated into class teachers' weekly planning. We assess children's knowledge and understanding by questioning, listening and observation of performance in class as an ongoing process. Evidence may be as taped performances or videos or photographs of group work and performances.

Assessment is an on-going process brought about by:

- Observation of children working
- Discussion with children before and after working

Information on a child's progress in music will be communicated to parents in the written report once yearly.

### Role of the Co-ordinator

The music co-ordinator will:

- provide advice, support and assistance to all staff when requested, in order to implement the music policy consistently throughout the school
- organise resources to support the school music policy and scheme of work
- co-ordinate purchasing, organisation and distribution of resources
- liaise with outside agencies
- monitor Policy and Scheme of Work
- run the school choir
- take weekly Infant and Junior hymn practice
- ensure planning is done appropriately and include a range of activities

### Equal Opportunities

Children should not be discriminated against in terms of gender and race. All children should have the opportunity to participate fully in classroom music lessons and activities. As part of the National Curriculum children will experience music from various countries and cultures.