



# Music Policy

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## Our Mission Statement

At St Joseph's we pride ourselves on our mission statement: 'Growing in Love, in the Spirit of Christ, for the benefit of all'.

We feel our Mission statement 'Growing in Love, in the Spirit of Christ, for the benefit of all' reflects all we stand for as a community. We put the example of Christ at the center of all we do to help us grow socially, academically, spiritually, morally and physically in our learning and our friendships. We do this for ourselves as well as for the members of the school, parish, local, national and international communities in which we live.

## Our Vision

At St Joseph's, our mission is to nurture a compassionate Catholic community inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, embracing every individual and all aspects of our school life. Guided by His message of love and forgiveness, our pupils, staff, parents, and governors work together to uphold and strengthen the school's Catholic ethos.

We are committed to offering a stimulating and well-balanced curriculum that reflects our values, while supporting each child in reaching their fullest potential. At St Joseph's, every person is valued, and we encourage mutual respect for one another and for the world around us.

## Intent

As a Catholic Academy, religious education and faith development are at the heart of our school curriculum developing the Catholicism and spirituality of our pupils.

All pupils at St. Joseph's have the right to have rich, deep learning experiences.

The intention is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. Each teacher uses the scheme and adapts it to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school. Sequencing and progression are clear.

We explore music by: performing, listening, composing, the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

Our Music Curriculum has been designed to support all children

- Recall: Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge repeatedly during their time in primary school.
- Digging deeper: Each time a skill or area of knowledge is revisited it is covered with greater depth.
- Prior knowledge: Upon returning to a skill, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations and with links to our Catholic ethos, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Pupils are taught musical notation and how to compose music.

Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

As children progress through the school, 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 teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together. We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine to make sounds.

Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

## Implementation

The curriculum at St. Joseph's is rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church; the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum.

At St. Joseph's, we take a holistic approach to music, in which the individual strands below are woven together to create engaging and enriching learning experiences:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- The inter-related dimensions of music

Each unit, lead and delivered by our skilled OLOL Music Service team, combines these strands within a cross-curricular topic designed to capture pupils' imagination and encourage them to explore music enthusiastically.

Our Music Curriculum provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole-body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

The children are given opportunities to apply their skills and given a chance for collaboration through composition.

## Impact

Our curriculum has ambition for high achievement of all pupils irrespective of background and starting point.

After the implementation of this curriculum, our pupils will be able to:

- 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

## Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to the Music curriculum. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background. A range of scaffolding techniques are used to ensure that all pupils can access lessons and make progress.

We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

## Monitoring

The Music Lead, alongside SLT, is responsible for monitoring and evaluating curriculum progress. This is done through work scrutiny, planning scrutiny, and learning walks which involve lesson observation drop-ins, pupil interviews and subject-specific conversations with staff.

In EYFS and KS1, videos are used to track children's progress. In KS2, the children complete booklets to keep track of learning and revisit modules across the year.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### **At St Joseph's, the Music Coordinator is Lizzie Holland**

It is the role of the Music coordinator, under the guidance of the Senior leadership team:

- To support and liaise with the Trust's music team in the implementation of the Music curriculum in school
- To monitor planning and quality of delivery of the Music curriculum to ensure that our vision and intent are being achieved for our pupils.
- To keep up to date with the developments within the Music curriculum and feed this back to teachers as necessary.