ST. MARY'S C.E. (A) FIRST SCHOOL

Learning to love
Loving to learn

ST MARY'S CE (A) FIRST SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT FOR MUSIC

"Our Vision is to provide the best opportunities to become life-long learners.
Our Christian values rooted in the Good Samaritan recognise everyone is loved by God.
Our ethos is to show love and respect – to ourselves, each other and God's creation."

Philosophy

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of our children. 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. It reflects our Christian vision, ensuring that music can be enjoyed by all in our collective worship. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of teaching music in St Mary's are to enable children to:

- Know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures.
- Know how music is composed and written down.
- Know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written.
- Foster an understanding and enjoyment of music.
- Develop the interrelated skills of Singing, Listening, Composing and Musicianship.

Teaching and learning style

At St Mary's 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. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, in lessons and worship, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and 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 teach children to make music together. They will develop the craft of creating melodies and fashioning these into short pieces.

The music curriculum

St Marys First School delivers a broad and balanced music curriculum, in line with national requirements, which enables pupils 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 use their voices.
- Create and compose music on their own and alongside their peers.
- Have the opportunities to learn a musical instrument, use technology properly and 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.
- To develop links with the local community through providing opportunities for shared musical events.
- To develop self-image and self-esteem through participation in musical performances.

Early years foundation stage (EYFS)

All pupils in the EYFS are taught music as an integral part of the topic work covered during the academic year.
All musical objectives within the EYFS are underpinned by the objectives of the early learning goals (ELGs).
The music curriculum in the EYFS is delivered with particular reference to the ELG- Being Imaginative and Expressive, which enables children to:

- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

National curriculum

All pupils within KS1 and KS2 are taught music in line with the requirements of the national curriculum.

In KS1, the focus for music will be Singing, Listening, Composing, Musicianship: Pulse/Beat Rhythm Pitch.

Pupils will 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.

In KS2, the focus for music will be Singing, Listening, Composing: Improvise and Compose, Performing. Pupils will be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They will be able to develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

In KS2, pupils will 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.

Teaching and learning
The teaching of music is delivered by peripatetic teachers in Key Stage 1 and 2.
In EYFS, music lessons are delivered by the class teacher, with support as required, from the Music Lead.

Equal opportunities

All pupils will have equal access to the music curriculum.
Gender, learning ability, physical ability, ethnicity, linguistic ability and/or cultural circumstances will not impede pupils from accessing music lessons.
Where it is inappropriate for a pupil to participate in a lesson because of reasons related to any of the factors outlined above, the lessons will be adapted to meet the pupil's needs and alternative arrangements involving extra support will be provided where necessary.
All efforts will be made to ensure that cultural and gender differences are positively reflected in lessons and the teaching materials used.
St. Mary's First School aims to provide more able pupils with the opportunity to extend their musical thinking through extension activities such as listening to and interpreting extended pieces of music, and research of a musical nature.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social, citizenship and health education. Through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people and build up good relationships. Music is the basis of many social activities and has an important role to play in the personal development of many young people. It has a vital role to play in building self-confidence. Participation in successful public musical performances is sometimes one of the most memorable things young people do at school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Listening, creating or performing music can often be a moving and even spiritual experience. We encourage children to reflect on the important effect that music has on people's moods, senses and quality of life. Children at St Mary's First School have the opportunity to encounter music from many cultures and, through their growing knowledge and understanding of the music, they develop more positive attitudes towards other cultures and societies.

Monitoring

Curriculum Team, Senior Management and Governor's Curriculum Committee.

Agreed by all Staff & Governing Body
Reviewed March 2026
Review March 2028