
MUSIC POLICY

**‘My heart, O God is steadfast;
I will sing and make music with all my soul.’
(Psalm 108:1)**



JUNE 2023

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

MUSIC

‘Treasure music and keep it with you always’.

At St John the Baptist RC primary School we love music! We believe that music is a powerful and unique form of communication and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development, and is an important vessel for expressing our faith. We are passionate about providing a broad, balanced, creative and enjoyable experience of music which enriches the lives of all our pupils. We want our children to have music as an integral part of their lives!

‘Music is an outburst of the soul.’

Frederick Delius

INTENT

Music is such an important part of our lives and the world we live in. We aim to provide a high quality of music education that enables all our children, regardless of ability, educational or emotional needs, to improve as a learner, enjoy a range of musical activities and participate in a musical lifestyle that will impact their lives. We encourage active participation in music through performing, composing, listening and appraising and seek to develop a sense of togetherness and positive group relationships through our music making. We always strive to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and provide them with opportunities to share their talents with others. We want them to have the knowledge and skills they need to develop as musicians and offer musical experiences which enhance the well-being of our pupils.

It is our intent that our children will develop a love of music and enjoy expressing themselves through a wide variety of musical opportunities. We aim to enable our pupils to sing and use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, to 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. We want our children to 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 classical composers and modern musicians.

“Music is a powerful form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act”

IMPLEMENTATION

Our music curriculum is designed to follow the National Curriculum for Music. We develop the skills, knowledge, vocabulary and creativity needed to enable our pupils to become confident and successful musicians. This curriculum has high expectations for pupils and is designed to teach age-related knowledge, skills and vocabulary. Music is taught and delivered with strong and meaningful cross-curricular links with class topics, seasonal feasts and school themes.

CLASSROOM-BASED LEARNING

In valuing music so highly here at St John the Baptist, the school is committed to funding a specialist music teacher to deliver our music curriculum. Every year group receives between 30-45 minutes of music lessons every week. We also provide Key Stage and whole-school singing sessions every week. Music is an integral part of our collective worship, and, as a catholic school, music is an important part of our masses and liturgies.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We strive to include all children in the musical life of the school through our singing and instrumental work.

Alongside the provision of music to all year groups, we also have specialist instrumental teachers who come in each week to teach violin, guitar, ukulele, keyboard, and drum kit. We have worked hard to extend the range of instrumental tuition we offer in school and encourage all our pupils to take part in these lessons. As we are passionate about equality of access to instrumental learning, the school supports several of our children from low income families, by subsidizing the cost of lessons through our pupil premium funding. Every child has the opportunity to learn the recorder as part of their music lessons and ukulele is offered to Year 4 through the Brighton and Hove Music and Arts Wider Access to Music Programme. We also offer an after-school choir club for KS2 and lunch time guitar club to children in years 5 and 6.

Through our commitment to music, we have also been selected to take part in an Awards for Young Musicians Project which provides a huge range of musical opportunities for our children who learn instruments in school. They have access to concerts, workshops, Arts Awards and many other resources.

At St John the Baptist we regularly celebrate the musical achievements of our pupils through instrumental concerts, key stage talent shows, singing concerts and weekly music awards. We like to take risks in music by trying out different musical experiences and challenges. We never see our mistakes as failure, only opportunities to improve and get better!

MUSIC IN OUR COMMUNITY

We work closely with our local community by regularly get involved in projects which have led to performances in several local venues including the Brighton Dome. We have a close relationship with Brighton Early Music Festival Choir and have taken part in several projects with them. We have worked with a local composer James Redwood, HDMT and Brighton & Hove Music and Arts Hub.

We take part in our annual Schools Christmas Concert at the Brighton Centre, we visit our local homes for the elderly to carol sing and raise money for various charities through performances, busking and Sign2Sing. We seek to provide our children with experiences of real-life musicians by inviting musicians and ensembles to come into school to play and talk to the children.

We work closely with our parents and they are always invited to come in and celebrate their children's work with us.

ASSESSMENT

Our formal assessment of music is carried out through observing the progression the children make within and over a series of lessons, by listening to the children talking about and responding to music, by building up evidence by means of sound and video recordings and by some written work. We monitor the development of musical skills, the improvement in listening and social skills such as cooperation and teamwork and by how the children actively participate in and enjoy their lessons.

Music assessment is carried out through questioning and evaluating within lessons; making recordings over a period of lessons to see progression; formative assessment at the end of lessons and summative assessments, based on year group skills progression is used in the end of year reports on each child.

To monitor progress across each child's entire school career, they each have a Music Book, in which there are compositions, artwork, photos that they have completed as part of their regular music lessons. We hope that this not only celebrates their musical achievements but also shows their progress over a longer time span and acts of a clear indicator of the development of their musical skills, abilities and experiences.

Alongside the monitoring and assessment of key skills and knowledge we measure the success of our children's learning in music through regular celebrations of their work within class, the school and with parents and families. We share the impact of music in assemblies, concerts, talent shows, through our website and in reporting and communication with parents and carers.

Further details of how music is implemented and taught at St John the Baptist RC School can be found in Appendix I (How Music is Implemented at SJB)

Details of what is taught can be found in Appendix II (Music Frameworks at SJB)

The children will be assessed on the end of year progression skills and knowledge criteria which can be found in Appendix III (Skills & Progression Outcome for Music SJB)

IMPACT

At St John the Baptist RC Primary, we aim for our music curriculum to have a deep-rooted impact on our children's lives, and one that will stay with them as they journey through life. We want them to have happy and special memories of the music they made and the musical experiences they had with us. One of the most important ways we measure the impact of music is by celebrating what the children have achieved and sharing this together in our school community and beyond.

By the time children leave St John the BAPTIST School they will:

- Have sung a broad range of songs with good posture, technique, articulation and breathing; be able to maintain own part in rounds, canons or as an accompaniment; sing with confidence and awareness of audience when performing.
- Have had opportunities to listen to, appraise and recognize a wide range of music (both live and recorded) from a broad range of styles and cultures.
- Be able to improvise, compose and create music in response to a given stimuli using melodic and rhythmic patterns, demonstrating an understanding of structure and purpose.
- Communicate personal thoughts and feelings when listening and responding to music.
- Have knowledge of musical elements such as tempo, dynamics, duration, timbre, pitch and demonstrate this knowledge in their singing and playing.
- Use different forms of notation (standard and graphic) to record their compositions and ideas.
- Have had many opportunities to perform and share their talents.

When the children leave our school, we want them to have a love of music, language to talk about it, an awareness of the richness and diversity of music, including an understanding of music throughout history and the confidence to go out and continue making and listening to music as a means of expressing and nurturing their body, mind and soul.

***‘Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination and life to everything.’
(Plato)***