

## **St Mary's Catholic Primary School Music Policy**

"speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord," Ephesians 5;19

"he who begins life with music will have this reflecting on his future like golden sunshine. The gift received with this will provide such strength, that it will help to overcome many difficulties." Zoltan Kodaly<sup>3</sup>

### **Statement of our Catholic Christian Ethos**

This policy reflects our Catholic Christian values, which recognise, celebrate and welcome diversity. We believe that each and every one of us brings something valuable to our school family. We aim to develop pupils' personal qualities and achievements. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest standards regardless of their age, religion, gender, ethnicity, attainment or background.

### **Philosophy**

"Music is an essential part of children's education. It stimulates the brain and helps enormously in a child's whole-person development-physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually and spiritually."  
David Vinden and Cyrilla Rowsell.

"Music is one of the most powerful forces for the uplifting of mankind. And he who renders it accessible to as many people as possible is a benefactor of humanity." Zoltan Kodaly

### **Aims**

- To develop aesthetic sensitivity and creative ability in all pupils.
- Foster pupil's sensitivity to and their understanding and enjoyment of music through an active involvement in listening, composing and performing.
- Provide for the expression and development of individual skills and for sharing experience and cooperating with others; singing, playing, composing and listening can give individual and collective satisfaction.
- Develop an awareness of musical traditions and developments in a variety of cultures and societies.
- The capacity to express ideas, thoughts and feelings through music.
- Provide the opportunity to experience a feeling of fulfilment which derives from striving for the highest possible artistic and technical standard.

### **Objectives**

- To sing in tune with expression in unison and in harmony.
- To develop a sense of pulse and metre, and be able to demonstrate this.
- To recognise, understand, perform and read and write rhythms.
- To develop an understanding of pitch using hand signs, and tonic solfa.
- To sight sing simple melodies from stick notation and from the stave.
- To recognise and respond to the interrelated dimensions of music.
- To understand form and structure and demonstrate their understanding through movement and composition.

- To move with control and coordination, matching movements to music.
- To identify and name instruments of the orchestra as well as pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments.
- To have an introduction to the history of western classical music, the main composers and their composing styles as well as world music.

## **Curriculum Organisation**

### **Robin Class**

In Robin Class (reception) music is taught by the specialist music teacher for half an hour each week. The class teacher (music coordinator and music specialist) reinforces their learning during their weekly music lessons during daily songs and rhymes sessions.

### **Woodpecker Class & Owl Class,**

Music is taught for 45mins once a week by a specialist music teacher.

### **Kestrel Class and Eagle Class**

Music is taught for one hour each week by a specialist music teacher.

### **Whole School**

Prayer and praise takes place once a week for half an hour and is taken by the music coordinator. It is an opportunity for the whole school to learn songs and hymns for collective worship and other occasions. Here, the children are taught to sing in harmony, sing a cappella and with piano accompaniment.

## **Extra Curricular Music**

### **Instrumental Tuition**

Children are encouraged to learn an instrument with visiting peripatetic teachers. The instrumental lessons on offer include: violin, viola, cello, piano, flute, recorder, drums, ukelele and guitar. Where appropriate the school will fund music lessons for children who are in receipt of pupil premium. The school also has links with the Clemence Griffin Trust who help fund tuition fees for children from lower income families who live in Devon. Each term a number of children are entered for ABRSM/Trinity examinations. Instrumental lessons take place where music teachers are available to teach during the school day.

### **Choir**

Children in KS2 are encouraged to join the choir. It is open to all children regardless of ability. The choir meet before school on a weekly basis and takes part in local festivals and events.

### **String Orchestra**

The String orchestra meets after school once a week during the Spring and Summer terms and works toward performances in concerts and festivals.

## **Performance Opportunities**

During the autumn term, the choir, orchestra and other instrumentalists perform in concerts in the local area. For example, the choir sing in local nursing homes. KS1 perform a nativity and KS2 sing in a carol service and advent service towards the end of term.

During the summer term, the choir, string orchestra and wind band perform in the Minster Church Lunchtime Concert series and the school's annual Music Evening. Eagle Class take part in a summer production.

At the end of every term, children are able to perform solos or in small ensemble groups in an informal concert to which parents are invited.

## **Teaching and Learning Approach - Methodology**

***'Everyone who learns an instrument should sing first. Singing, independent of an instrument, is the real and profound schooling of musical abilities.'*** Zoltán Kodály

At St Mary's, our teaching methods are developed from the techniques developed by Zoltán Kodály and Émile Jaques-Dalcroze. In simplified terms, Kodály teaches musical skills through using the voice as the first instrument, whilst Dalcroze furthers this development with movement to music.

Kodály's approach to music education is based on teaching, learning and understanding music through the use of song, thereby eliminating the technical problems that can be encountered with the use of an instrument.

Musical development using the voice can develop as early as babyhood. Singing is an engaging, sociable activity that can feed the spirit as well as the musical mind. It's the most straightforward way to learn and internalise music and to develop musicianship skills. Through unaccompanied singing a child can begin to acquire skills essential to all musicians: musical memory, inner hearing, true intonation and harmonic awareness.

In Dalcroze Eurhythmics, musical concepts are taught and experienced through movement of all parts of the body. For example, we may step or clap the pulse or rhythm whilst singing, or may move to show phrasing. Through training the body, and not only the ear, we can improve our ability to be expressive and further our understanding so that we experience the music more deeply.

The overall structure of the music lessons incorporates the combined principles of the Kodaly and Dalcroze approaches to teaching music. Through singing songs and moving to music, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. The children are taught to listen to and appreciate different forms of music and are also taught simple notation and how to compose. Lessons aim to give the children the opportunity to be creative within listening, performing and composition activities including improvisation. The use of percussion instruments is frequently incorporated into the music class where appropriate. During the whole class lessons, children are given the opportunity to work in pairs and small groups. Children are encouraged to evaluate their own and their peers performances positively as well as areas that can be improved. Children in KS2 are given the opportunity to take part in whole class instrumental lessons learning to play instruments such as the flute and samba drums.

## **Resources**

Music lessons take place in the hall with a piano. Occasionally where the hall is needed for other activities class music lessons will take place in the classroom or outside. There is a music room with a variety of pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments. Peripatetic music lessons take place in the music room, or wherever there is space. CD's and speakers are in the hall to be used during music if needed.

## **SEND**

Musical activities are particularly effective in the education of children with learning difficulties of any kind ranging from physical to social to emotional problems. Creative approaches provide opportunities for all learners to solve problems, to work independently, to work in a group and to be responsible for self-regulation. At St Mary's we believe that all children should have equal access to music.

At St Mary's we teach music to all children, whatever their ability. Through our music teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

## **Health and safety.**

Teachers have due regard for these issues and encourage the children to work carefully and have a knowledge of the equipment that will prevent dangerous mishandling of instruments. Instruments are regularly checked to ensure that they are in a safe condition. All visiting music staff are obliged to read the school's policy on safeguarding.

## **Assessment and recording**

We assess children's knowledge and understanding by questioning, listening and observation of performance in class as an ongoing process. Children often perform in groups to each other and this gives an opportunity for the teacher to assess children's achievements and plan in to lessons areas for improvement.

At the end of the year, the teacher makes a summative judgement about each individual child according to whether they are working at expected levels, exceeding or working towards for their year group. This information will be communicated to parents in the written report once yearly.

## **Monitoring of Class Music Teaching**

Peripatetic teachers are encouraged to communicate with the subject coordinator about progress and any issues that need resolving.

The subject music coordinator liaises closely with the specialist music teacher and through lesson observations and professional dialogue, support is provided to ensure there is a high standard of music teaching so children achieve their full potential.