



Music Policy

"Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it."

- Aristotle

"Having the opportunity to study and explore music is not a privilege; it is a vital part of a broad and ambitious curriculum."

*Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards
Model Music Curriculum (DfE 2021)*

Intent

At St Mark's we intend that children should experience Music to an extent that it reverberates through their daily life both in and out of school for all of our children from foundation stage to Year 6. Our children will be taught Music in a way that ensures progression of skills and follows a sequence to build on previous learning whilst instilling a deepened understanding and appreciation of various cultures and genres. Pupils will gain experience and skills of a wide range of dimensions of music in a way that will enhance their learning opportunities, enabling them to use music in a variety of contexts, ensuring they make progress. All children will have the opportunity to learn an instrument before they finish their primary education and will regularly experience high quality 'live' performances as part of curriculum lessons.

The aspects of musical learning, which correspond with the national curriculum for music, will be experienced by every child at the school. The National Curriculum is split into main strands: Listening and Appraising, Musical Knowledge, Composition and Performing. These are interlinked in all musical activities - from singing, musical games, performing and notating - to develop skills multi-dimensionally rather than through the achievement of a single objective from a lesson.

Implementation

We follow a broad and balanced Music curriculum that builds on previous learning and provides both support and challenge for learners. The Model Music Curriculum, 2021, sets out a sequence of learning that ensures progression of skills and covers all aspects of the Music curriculum. All classes will have a scheduled Music lesson each week and we want to ensure that Music is embedded in our whole school curriculum and that opportunities for enhancing learning by using music are always taken through cross-curricular and external opportunities.

Singing is a daily part of life at St Mark's and through whole-school worship, singing together is the culmination of our assembly. In EYFS, singing takes place constantly from the tidy up song to daily nursery rhymes. Children are encouraged to channel their efforts into singing as another means of communicating that can be accessed by all.

Students are all given the opportunity to learn musical instruments with a varied style of notation reading. Children in years 3 to 6 are taught ukulele through the partnership with Lancashire Music Service, providing access to high quality expert tuition covering all aspects of their curriculum objectives and will learn the reading of notation through TAB.

Our children enjoy and value Music and know why they are doing things, not just how. Children will understand and appreciate the value of music in the context of their personal wellbeing and the creative and cultural industries and their many career opportunities.

All pupils shall have the opportunity to access music at St Mark's, in all of its forms, regardless of Special Educational Needs or disadvantage; any adaptations necessary will be made to accommodate every child. The school promotes equal opportunities and fairness of distribution of Music resources. Children with other cultural or religious backgrounds at home are encouraged to access it for educational benefit and parents are consulted and permission or advice sought where it is appropriate.

Impact

The Music curriculum will contribute to children's personal development in ways relative to life. The skills gained from experiencing an excellent quality music education are:

- creativity
- independence
- self-reflection
- resilience
- confidence and self-esteem
- Communication and social skills
- Stress relief and emotional management
- problem solving
- commitment and responsibility

This would be seen in them being able to talk confidently about their work, and sharing their work with others, peer assessment and through a wider audience including public performances.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Progress in Music is demonstrated through regularly reviewing of progress through their work during performances, lessons and as part of rehearsals. Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. The children's progress is based on their achievement of the learning objectives in lessons. We also use the

Lancashire County Council Key Learning Indicators of Performance (KLIP's) to ensure coverage and progression of the key skills that are required. Any written Music work that is produced is marked in line with the school policy on marking and performances recorded within the school's safeguarding and GDPR policies.

Where applicable the assessment will be carried out by the expert delivering lessons or the class teacher.

Children's attainment and progress is reported in the annual progress report

The policy is reviewed annually in consultation with the Music Subject Lead, the Headteacher and teaching staff.

To be reviewed September 2025