

ST JAMES' RC PRIMARY MUSIC POLICY

This policy has the School's Motto at its heart.

**Faith in action,
Growing together,
Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

Aims

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual. Music reflects many different cultures and societies from across the world and therefore the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world that they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can be a highly academic and demanding subject. It is also important in helping children to feel part of a community.

Our Music Teachers aim to:

- provide a relevant, challenging and enjoyable curriculum for music for all children;
- meet the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for music and the EYFS curriculum;
- use music to enhance learning across the curriculum;
- respond to new developments in technology which will enhance musical learning and keep music relevant to the present day;
- give children an enjoyable and stimulating experience of music which will encourage them to keep enjoying music throughout their lives;
- enable children to develop their musicianship and to enjoy performing to others.

Our children will aim to:

- know and understand how sounds are made using their voices;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- begin to know how much is written down (simple notation of notes, pitches and rests);
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music;
- enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles;
- make and quantify judgements about the quality of music.

Teaching and Learning

At St James' we want to 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.

Our teaching focuses on:

- developing an ability to sing in tune and with other people;
- developing an ability to recognise pulse and pitch;
- developing an ability to play instruments with control and sensitivity working with others to make music;
- developing an ability to recognise how individuals combine together to make sounds;
- developing a knowledge of musical notation and how to compose simple musical melodies.

Objectives (Year Group Focus)

The objectives that are taught at St James' are tailored to the children's musical needs. They are adapted from both the National Curriculum objectives and the music teachers' own individually planned topics and lessons. In KS2 we aim to build cross curricular links between subjects to enhance the children's learning.

Early Years:

In Early Years, music is incorporated into a wide range of areas such as 'Being Imaginative' and 'Exploring and Using Different Materials and Media.'

We ensure that all children:

- build up a repertoire of songs;
- explore the different sounds of instruments and explore how sounds can be changed. Make up their own songs and music including the dimensions of dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture;
- tap out repeated rhythms and experiment with a variety of different rhythms.

Planning

Please see curriculum grid for Music.

Evaluation and Assessment

The music teachers assess the children's work in music by making informal judgements about the achievement of teaching and learning objectives as they observe children during lessons. At the end of each Key Stage the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each child in relation to the National Curriculum objectives. We use this as the basis for assessing the progress of the child and for completing reports to parents. We use Classroom Monitor to track the children's progress and this is then tracked by the Subject Leader. Tape recordings, use of a digital camera or a video may also be used to record work done.

Differentiation

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- setting common tasks, which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty for more able children;
- providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child;
- providing extra-curricular opportunities for gifted children and signposting parents to the opportunities available for a musically gifted child.

Teaching Children with SEN

We teach music to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. The music teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties and our work in music considers the targets set for individual children.

Organisation

At St James', we have 2 music teachers who deliver music lessons to KS1 and KS2. These are Elizabeth Atkinson in KS2 and Roz Walter in KS1.

In KS2 each class has a weekly timetabled lesson of 45 minutes.

In KS1 each class has a weekly timetable lesson of 30 minutes.

Each week both KS1 and KS2 also have 30 minutes of Collective Worship and singing together.

Links to other Areas of the Curriculum

Literacy

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school. Children develop their language skills through singing songs with attention to diction, meaning, rhythm and rhyme. Music is also used to stimulate discussion or creative writing. Music also has a positive effect on the reading skills that children develop throughout KS1 and KS2. Memorizing lyrics, reading lyrics and also following music on a score help to develop skills that are beneficial for children's reading. Through working with others in a musical setting, children develop their ability to communicate ideas effectively.

Numeracy

Music contributes to the teaching of mathematics through observing patterns and processes. Music lessons enhance Numeracy as the structure of music is mathematically based.

Science

Children practise experimenting with different sounds and making musical instruments.

Art

Graphic scores e.g. pattern pictures to illustrate sound effects. We explore the link between music and art by listening to music and interpreting the feelings evoked by translating those feelings into pictures.

RHE and RE

Through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people and build up good relationships. Music has a vital role to play in building self-confidence. We encourage children to reflect on the important effect that music has on people's moods, senses and quality of life. We aim to enable children to encounter music from many cultures. Being a Catholic School, RE and Music are intertwined at St James'. The children learn hymns each week and sing at both Class and School Masses at church. At Christmas, each KS perform a Nativity Play (KS1) and an Advent Service (KS2.) These musical events provide children with the opportunity to reflect on their spiritual development through music and praise through song.

MFL

During Music lessons we learn songs in many different languages. This enhances the children's exposure to Modern Foreign Languages and also languages from across the world, for example French, German, Spanish, Swahili and Zulu.

Additional Music Teaching (Peripatetic)

Peripatetic music teaching is organised by The Bromley Youth Music Trust. Parents who want their children to benefit from having individual instrumental lessons purchase or hire the instruments. The music lesson fees are paid on a termly/ half-termly basis. These lessons are taught during the school day, during lunchtime, break time and class lessons. A rota system is used so that children do not miss the same class lessons each week. Instruments that are taught are:

- piano
- recorder
- cello
- violin
- voice
- percussion

Extra Curricular and Opportunities for Live Music

- KS1 and KS2 Collective Worship— Once a week each KS meets to learn hymns and songs for collective worship and special occasions linked to R.E. and P.S.H.E

- Listening and Appraising — Twice a week the whole school meets for whole school assemblies. As the children enter and leave the hall they have the opportunity to listen to a new piece of music from different cultures and genres.
- School entertainments — At Christmas time, each year group takes part in a musical performance of some kind. KS1 perform a musical nativity and KS 2 perform at an Advent Service in the Church. At other times throughout the year such as Harvest and Easter, year groups or the whole school come together to provide appropriate musical entertainment.
- At Christmas time the choir performs Carols at various places in the local community. These include the local library, a local residential home for the elderly and the local shopping centre.
- Children who learn with peripatetic teachers are encouraged to play when appropriate, for example during a violin concert led by our violin teacher and during assembly times.
- At the end of the summer term Year 6 perform a musical as a leaving performance to the rest of the school and parents. Year 5 act as the choir in the show.
- We have an auditioned Choir for Years 5 and 6. It meets during Monday lunchtimes on a weekly basis. Its primary aim is to enable children of all musical abilities to sing a variety of songs together, performing them to the school on a number of occasions throughout the year. This includes various local venues including the library, the local shopping centre, BYMT, the O2 and The Churchill Theatre. They sing a range of musicals, spiritual, popular and world music.
- We have a Year 3 and 4 Junior Choir that begun in December 2022. This is an open choir for children to apply their learning from music lessons singing a variety of popular songs and songs from musicals.

Health and Safety

Children are always encouraged to use instruments carefully and safely, ensuring that they are returned to boxes to be stored. All instruments are stored carefully in the cloakroom and in the Music Room. An instrument, which is blown, will have the mouthpiece cleaned thoroughly after each child has used it and when using these instruments, each child is instructed in how to do this.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new government guidance.

It was last reviewed in: autumn 2022

It will next be reviewed in: autumn 2025

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date: _____

Signed:

_____ (Chairperson)

_____ (Head teacher)