

South Kilworth C of E Primary School

Music Policy

Date of Adoption _____

Signed _____

Date of Review _____

Aims and objectives

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 people. 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. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also 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.

The objectives of teaching music in our school are to enable children to:

- know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is composed and written down;
- 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.

Teaching and learning style

At South Kilworth C of E. Primary School 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, 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 them the disciplined skills of recognising rhythm, pulse and pitch. We also teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces. We recognise that in all classes children have a wide range of musical ability, and so we seek to 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:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child;
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children

All Key stage 2 children learn to play the recorder and this is in ability groups.

In 2013/14 the school has opted into the Wider Community Ensemble Teaching initiative with the local music hub. This provides all Year3 and 4 children with the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument for a year. The instruments and tuition are provided to the children free of charge.

Additional music teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. We use a variety of peripatetic music teachers the majority of whom are associate teachers with Leicestershire music service. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons are normally taught to small groups of children who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the trumpet, guitar flute or piano. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, and usually takes place during normal lessons, from which children are withdrawn for the duration of the instrumental lesson.

Music Curriculum Planning

South Kilworth C of E Primary School uses the national curriculum as the basis for its music planning. It then uses the Active Music Scheme of work to develop this so that the topics the children study in music build upon prior learning. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

We carry out the curriculum planning in music in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the music topics studied in each year during the key stage on a two year rolling programme.

The medium-term plans give details of each unit of work for each term and also make links to topics where appropriate.

The short term planning is done by the class teacher using Active Music lessons as a resource to aid planning The class teacher uses the lesson plans, which list the specific learning objectives and expected outcomes for each lesson.

The contribution of music to teaching in other curriculum areas.

English

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of English at South Kilworth by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Children develop their language skills through singing songs, with attention to diction, meaning, rhythm and rhyme. They use reference books, and develop research skills, when finding out about the history of music and musicians. Music is also used to stimulate discussion or creative writing. Through working with others in a musical setting, children develop their ability to communicate ideas effectively.

Mathematics

The teaching of music contributes to children's mathematical understanding in a variety of ways. Children who study the structure of music are observing patterns and processes. Talent in music is often linked with talent in mathematics, as the rhythm and structure of

music is mathematically based.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship. Through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people, and to 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

Creating, performing or listening to music can sometimes 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 South Kilworth C Of E Primary 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.

Music and inclusion

At our school we teach music to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our music teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs.

Assessment for learning

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives oral or written feedback as necessary to inform future progress. Older pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil and records these grades on classroom monitor to inform the coordinator. We use this as the basis for assessing the progress of the child, and we pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of the year.

There is a section on the children's annual report dedicated to Music.

The music subject leader keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio.

Resources

There are sufficient resources for music teaching. We keep resources for music centrally in the library where there are boxes of various instruments. The library contains a good supply of topic books and computers support children's individual research.

Current Opportunities for Music Making:

School Choir.

Class Music Lessons.

Peripatetic Woodwind, Guitar, Keyboard and Piano Lessons.

All KS2 children learn to play the recorder

Music Hub workshops for children who play an instrument

Whole school performances

Class workshops e.g. African drumming

Opportunities to listen to musical performances e.g. visit by English Touring Opera to perform Laika. Visit to theatre Christmas/summer.

In 2013/14 all Y3/4 children will have the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument.

Monitoring and review

The music subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching in music. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of music, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for music in the school. The subject leader is responsible for giving the Head Teacher an annual summary report in which she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject, and indicates areas for further improvement.