



A Policy for Music

Overview

Music education should be an integral part of a child's learning process especially as it has been dictated by the National Curriculum (2014) to be threaded across the curriculum. At Prieststic children are encouraged to develop confidence in their ability to communicate through music with tuned and untuned instruments and vocally. The children are encouraged to foster sensitivity to alongside an understanding and enjoyment of music, through an active involvement in listening and appraising, composing and performing. This is intended to enhance children's aesthetic development and helps them to relate to and interact with the world around them in a more meaningful and enjoyable way. This enables children to engage with SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural education) on a regular basis. Children are encouraged to appreciate a wide variety of music styles, genres and cultural music.

Foundation Stage:

Children are given opportunity to play a variety of percussion, ethnic and tuned instruments. The children can explore these instruments sometimes freely and also under a more structured environment. Early work on listening skills, rhythm and singing are encouraged through these years in a cross curricular approach. Staff are encouraged to access Charanga for further support and more detailed lesson ideas and structure.

Key Stage One:

Children continue to develop the skills attained in the early years following Charanga in greater detail. They are encouraged to play simple pieces of music and learn to recognise the inter related dimensions of music (musical elements) such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture. The children begin to learn simple notation skills and create musical effects to poems, stories and songs.

The children are encouraged to perform in front of an audience and in class to their peers. Regular singing takes place unaccompanied. Music is usually taught in standalone sessions, though it is sometimes planned to be cross curricular and is linked to most subjects such as, dance, drama, P.E., English, Maths, Art, History, R.E. and Technology. The children are aware of different types of music and the instruments being played and emotions they evoke through listening, appraising and participating.

Children also sing at least once a week in assembly and take part in their annual Nativity Play allowing them to engage in singing for purpose and enjoyment.

Key Stage Two:

Our children have made strong ties to the local community through their work with Sutton Academy. Our pupils are taught singing on a weekly basis with the intention of sharing and celebrating their work with parents through short performances in learning cafes. To cement these ties our Year 6 pupils are also invited to watch the annual school performance at Sutton Academy and will often learn a selection of songs from the play so that they are included in the rehearsal and performance process.

As the National Curriculum (2014) dictates, music is usually taught as standalone sessions, but it sometimes planned to be cross curricular and used in most subjects. Appreciation of music is developed by providing extensive listening materials, thereby leading to a greater awareness of styles, cultures, historical periods and composers. The children learn how music can communicate moods and ideas. They are encouraged to develop their skills with percussion instruments both tuned and untuned, and to evaluate their compositions. The children have opportunities to develop their I.T. skills using a variety of music packages/Apps such as garage band, singing fingers, magic piano, noteworks lite and Charanga.

Singing assemblies take place on a weekly basis in which all of Key Stage 2 learn and sing a variety of songs, including songs of cultural interest and heritage, allowing them to engage in singing for purpose and enjoyment. Also the children are able to use their musical skills and develop their confidence by performing productions each year to the parents where they sing solos, duets, in groups, sing in rounds, dance and play instruments.

Additionally, we have a composer of the month whereby the whole school listens to, learns and researches about a particular composer in order to gain a deeper insight and gain better knowledge and understanding about the composer. Composers are selected from all musical periods and genres in order to gain well rounded musical knowledge. We make sure to celebrate past and present musical figures from many backgrounds and cultures.

Extra-Curricular:

The school has an excellent choir, consisting of children from all years groups across Key Stage 2 which is run weekly after school. These children perform in various venues throughout the local community, including care homes, theatres, hospitals and churches. The choir have secure links with the family of schools via Sutton Academy due to their regular involvement in concerts and local events.

Extra music opportunities are provided by the school with specialist music companies, such as Travelling by Tuba, Samabawamba, African drumming, Fine Tuning and Steel Drums coming in providing concerts and workshops to widen the children's musical experiences.

Children have the opportunity to play their instrument(s) or perform their composed pieces and 'Showcase' their learning at our learning cafes.

Children have the opportunity to learn to play instruments at after school clubs.

Year 5 children have the opportunity to take part in The Voice Choice Project where they are involved in workshops to create their own lyrics to songs and perform at the Sutton Academy to a live audience.

Children from Foundation 2 to Year 6 are given the opportunity to be part of a Rock Steady band where they have weekly instrumental/vocal lessons in school by an outside provider (Rock Steady) and perform a rock concert termly to parents/carers and family members.

Assessment and Recording

We assess children's work in Music by making informal judgements as we observe them during each Music lesson.

Tools employed to assess or evidence children's learning in Music include:

- Learning Journey Books/e-book
- IPad Apps used to support learning
- Photographs
- Audio/video recordings of different skills and final pieces
- Pupil interviews to assess their attitudes to and understanding of Music
- Music Assessment sheets
- Information on a child's progress in music will be shared with the parents in parent's evenings and end of year report.

Monitoring

All teachers are responsible for monitoring standards in their own class. The Music co-ordinator will monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of the teaching and learning of Music within the school, providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.