



Music

Curriculum Policy

The vision of the school:
'Learning and Growing Together'
Is underpinned by our school's core values of
Hope, Friendship, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Respect, and Honesty.

We nurture the tiny seeds (that are each individual child and our community) to grow into the mighty tree, as Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven (Parable of the Mustard Seed- Matthew 13).

Individuals flourish in a school which is a safe, respectful and welcoming Christian community.

Learning-

we develop our wisdom, knowledge and skills

Growing-

in our character-development, hope, aspiration, resilience and social action

Together-

so our community can live well together, showing dignity and respect.

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 with 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, improvising and appreciating music.

Teaching and learning style

At St Oswald's 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 children to make music together, to understand musical notation, to improvise with instruments and to compose pieces using tuned and untuned instruments.

Music curriculum planning

Our school uses the Charanga Music Curriculum to deliver the National Curriculum in music.

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.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

We teach music in the Reception class as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the Reception class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, we relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. Counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability, and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

Music Specialist

KS2 children currently have weekly lessons with a Music Specialist for three terms, during their primary education. These lessons cover percussion instruments, glockenspiels and standard notation. The children learn to play, and compose music; this culminates in a concert to the school. Many of the children also have the opportunity to learn the ukulele; lessons are in groups and the children are able to take the instrument home to practise.

Resources

- We keep resources for music in a central store.
- The piano is in the hall.
- Every classroom (and the hall) has facility to play music from the internet.
- All school Smartboards can access the interactive Charanga music lessons online.
- All devices in school can access the Charanga Music Studio (Yumu) where children can create digital music. The children also have passwords so they can access this studio outside school.
- The school also has music creation apps on tablets and laptops (e.g. GarageBand) and a class set of headphones.

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. As the children sing, play, compose and improvise, the teacher assesses the children and gives oral or written feedback as necessary to inform future progress.

Older pupils are also encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own composition, improvisation and performance.

Every class is expected to perform to one another and to the school, during celebration services each year.

At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum, and records these achievements on iTrack. This enables the next class teacher to view the knowledge and skills of each child and cohort, and direct their teaching towards any specific gaps if needed.

Equality Act 2010; Protected Characteristics

At St Oswald's we have a due regard to eliminate discrimination, harassment or victimisation when we teach Music. We aim to remove or minimise any disadvantage connected to a relevant protected characteristic.

We tackle any prejudice within Music and promote understanding. We do not treat anyone differently based on the following protected characteristics; age, disability, sex, race, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion and/or belief, gender reassignment.

Learning and teaching in Music is accessible for all pupils.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

a) The school choir and musical events

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have had a school choir in the past and are working with St. Oswald's Church community to find the resources to provide one in the future.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for young musicians to perform for the school community. This includes solo and ensemble performances as part of assemblies and concerts. This recognises their achievements and celebrates their success.

b) Additional music teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is provided through the school, when teachers are available. 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 guitar, flute and piano (dependant on the availability of music teachers). This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, but usually takes place during curriculum time.

Pupil's Instrumental Practice is enabled at school wherever possible, usually at lunchtimes, or if the child is attending Early Birds or Evening Owls (wrap-around clubs).

c) Links with Music in the Community

There are many choirs, music teachers and a Town Band in Ashbourne. There are also musical theatre groups and children's orchestras within a thirty minutes radius. The school would like to begin promoting these groups to the children and to provide support for grant applications for those children who show particular interest and/or ability but who may have financial barriers to music tuition.

We are church school and work closely with St. Oswald's C of E church; the building is opposite the school building, and church members and leaders visit regularly to take assemblies. The church and school are currently investigating a joint children's choir.

d) Links with the main secondary school (QEGS)

The older KS2 children are invited to take part in QEGS Primary Arts day where they experience a music workshop in the Music Department. There are other opportunities to enjoy the QEGS show involving music, dance and drama, and a live student band.