**St. Mary’s Primary School – How do we teach Music?**

**Intent:**

At St. Mary’s Primary School, we aim to engage, motivate and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination. (The National Curriculum)

Music teaching at St. Mary’s Primary School aims to follow the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum; ensuring the progressive development of musical concepts, knowledge and skills. Music is a unique way of communicating, it is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in personal and cognitive development. Music at St. Mary’s aims to reflect the culture and society that we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. At St. Mary’s we recognise that music can be a highly academic and demanding subject but we also aim to make it a creative and enjoyable activity. Furthermore, music also plays an important part in helping children to feel part of a community and so we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music both in class and to an audience through assemblies, concerts and key stage performances. Lessons enable children to develop their skills, appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and begin to make judgements about the quality of music. The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which St. Mary’s School develops exciting and stimulating themes and lessons to promote the development of pupils’ knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school Curriculum.

The aims of our Music curriculum are to develop pupils who:

* Can sing and use their voices.
* Create and compose music on their own and with others.
* Use technology appropriately.
* Progress to the next level of musical excellence.
* Have opportunities to learn a musical instrument.
* Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.
* Understand the work of great composers and musicians.
* Enjoy and have an appreciation for music.
* Use musical language.
* Make judgements about the quality of music.
* Have opportunities to play a wide variety of instruments.
* Take part in performances.
* Perform and share a range of musical styles.
* Listen, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.
* Have opportunities to study a range of musical styles and genres, e.g. Jazz, Hip Hop, Pop, Rock etc.

**Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND) / Pupil Premium / Higher Attainers**

All children will have Quality First Teaching. Any children with identified SEND or in receipt of pupil premium funding may have work additional to and different from their peers in order to access the curriculum dependent upon their needs. As well as this, our school offers a demanding and varied curriculum, providing children with a range of opportunities in order for them to reach their full potential and consistently achieve highly from their starting points.

**Implementation:**

At St. Mary’s Primary School we recognise that musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear and that children do not learn in straight lines. Repeating a musical skill doesn’t mean their progress is slowing down or their development is moving backwards, it enables pupils to reinforce musical understanding in order to improve the quality of their musicianship.

Our Music scheme, Charanga, allows children to develop new music skills and concepts whilst also revisiting and embedding established musical skills and concepts. At St. Mary’s we recognise that achieving mastery in Music means gaining both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts whilst also learning something new. The progression document ensures the curriculum is covered and the skills, knowledge and vocabulary taught are progressive from year group to year group.

Music is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum and the Music curriculum at St. Mary’s is in line with the 2014 Primary National Curriculum in England requirements for KS1, KS2 and the Foundation stage curriculum. Music teaching at St. Mary’s will deliver the requirements of the National Curriculum through half termly topics and teachers plan lessons based on our knowledge and skills document and the Charanga scheme of work, ensuring consistency and progression throughout the school.

We recognise that music is a specialist subject and not all teachers are musical specialists. The Charanga package enables clear coverage of the music curriculum whilst also providing support and CPD for less confident teachers to deliver lessons. Furthermore, the music co-ordinator has received additional music training.

At St. Mary’s teachers use the Charanga scheme of work as a supplement to their music lessons rather than following it as a prescribed model. Teachers tailor the units and use the ‘freestyle’ element of the package to provide thematic, cross curricular lessons that also follow children’s interests. Music lessons are broken down into half-termly units and flexibility is provided to enable teachers to link with other subjects and follow pupil’s current interests. An emphasis is placed on musical vocabulary, allowing children to talk about pieces of music using the correct terminology.

Each unit of work has an on-going musical learning focus and a unit specific focus to enable previous musical skills to be embedded. Music lessons usually follow a specific learning sequence:

* Listen and Appraise
* Musical Activities (including pulse and rhythm)
* Singing and Voice
* Playing instruments
* Composition
* Perform and Share

Our progression model also follows the same learning sequence to ensure all interrelated elements of music are covered and implemented.

Music teaching at St. Mary’s is practical and engaging. A variety of teaching approaches and activities are provided based on teacher judgement and pupil ability. Lessons typically involve a combination of the following; games, songs, challenges, listening to music and discussing music, playing a range of musical instruments, performing back, finding the pulse and composing music using notation sheets.

Performance is at the heart of musical teaching and learning at St. Mary’s and all pupils participate performances. Pupils also take part in Harvest assemblies, singing assemblies and pupils from reception to year 6 perform at our annual carol concert in school. Pupils who are confident are also encouraged to perform in solo performances. Parents are invited and welcomed to watch all of these performances whether at school or outside of school. Furthermore, pupils from reception to year 6 all perform in our whole school show in the summer on the stage at Chipping Village Hall.

At St. Mary’s music teaching is not only focused on performance but also providing our pupils with an understanding and appreciation for music. Through our music lessons children study a wide range of musical styles and genres from a range of musical periods. Some of the musical styles and genres we study are as follows: Mamma Mia, The Beatles, Jazz, Rap, Reggae, Motown, Michael Jackson, Hip Hop, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.

Alongside our curriculum provision for music, pupils also have the opportunity to participate in additional 1:1 music teaching. Pupils are offered the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Currently we have brass, piano and guitar lessons. Pupils that learn a musical instrument have the opportunity to sit examinations and perform at our carol concert and assemblies and in out of school venues.

Pupils also have the opportunity to join the school choir. Pupils in the school choir meet after school and focus on team work, singing in unison, developing harmony, solo performances and having fun! The school choir also have the opportunity to perform in school performances, carol concerts, singing in assemblies and competitions.

**Impact:**

Our music Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression and build on and embed current skills. We focus on progression of knowledge and skills in the different musical components and like in other subjects, discreet teaching of vocabulary also forms part of the units of work.

If children are achieving the knowledge and skills in lessons, then they are deemed to be making good or better progress.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

* Pupil discussions and interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
* Governor monitoring with our subject music link governor.
* Moderation staff meetings with opportunities for dialogue between teachers.
* Annual reporting and tracking of standards across the curriculum.
* Photo evidence and images of the pupils practical learning.
* Video analysis through recording of performance in lessons.
* A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes.
* Dedicated music leader time.

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