

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MUSIC POLICY

Statement of purpose

“Music affords a kind of pleasure that human beings cannot do without”.

Confucius

This school believes that music contributes to the education of the whole person.

Aims

1. To encourage an enjoyment of a wide range of music.
2. To value every child's musical contributions positively, regardless of race, gender or ability.
3. To enable the pupils to express and communicate ideas through musical participation
4. To give pupils the opportunity to make, perform, record and assess their own music.
5. To develop individual opinions about musical pieces, to listen to music critically.
6. To provide experiences of a wide range of musical instruments, including those from other cultures and traditions.
7. To follow a scheme of work, in line with the National Curriculum, to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school.

These aims will be achieved through developing the following:

1. Musical Elements

pitch	-	high/low, intervals, scales.
tempo	-	fast/slow, increasing/decreasing speed.
timbre	-	quality of sound (tone), exploration of instrument and voice sounds.
texture	-	thick/thin, solo, accompaniment, group.
dynamics	-	loud, soft, accents.
structure	-	patterns, repeats, verse/chorus, beginning, middle and end, silence.
duration	-	long/short sounds, rhythm, pulse.

2. Musical Attitudes

- to value others' music and to listen with an open mind.
- to respect the opinion of others.
- to express personal opinions, with reasoning.

3. Musical Skills

singing	-	in tune, in time, listening to each other.
playing	-	in tune, in time, controlling the sound and pace.
composing	-	free exploration of instruments before choosing sounds, developing ideas, structuring a piece of music or composition.

- performing - in class sessions, in assembly and before larger audiences.
- listening - to each other, to music from a variety of different cultures, developing preferences/opinions and giving reasons for these.

4. Musical Knowledge

- names of classroom instruments and how they are played.
- orchestral instruments and the groups within the orchestra.
- pieces of music, composers.
- notation and how musical ideas can be recorded.
- different music genres.
- a technical musical vocabulary.

Opportunities to Learn Music

Each class is timetabled for one music lesson a week in the music room. There is one hymn practice a week led by the Music Subject Leader, which allows the children to sing together as a whole school community and to increase their repertoire. Class assemblies and large scale productions, such as Christmas, also provide an opportunity to learn new songs, often related to topic work.

A KS2 choir is run to develop pupils' skills and interests further.

Woodwind instrumental lessons are provided for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 by Mr. Tanner on a weekly basis.

All pupils in Year 4 have the opportunity to learn an instrument in their curriculum music lessons through the Wider Opportunities programme.

All year groups have music enrichment sessions provided by Portsmouth Music Service.

KS1 children receive extra music sessions through Portsmouth Infant Music Project workshops.

Cross Curricular Aspects

The teaching of music can be cross-curricular in a variety of ways. Music will interact with all subjects. Music-making will build on children's self confidence and sense of achievement. It can develop children's social and listening skills, as well as their concentration and co-ordination.

Monitoring and Assessment

Musical activities, continuity and progression will be monitored by the music subject leader. All teachers will be provided with a cassette tape which they can use to record examples of class and group work during music-making, as evidence for assessment. Digital cameras and video cameras should also be used to record musical activities across the school.

An end of term assessment is written into the Scheme of Work for all pupils.

The Role of the Music Subject Leader

The Music Subject Leader will ensure that the Scheme of Work is in use throughout the year groups, and will help with implementing this. S/he will maintain the music room and instruments and keep staff up-dated with examples of musical activities and useful teaching resources or CDs. Participation of pupils in local music festivals and competitions will be encouraged and organised by the Music Subject Leader.

Resources

Our Scheme of Work is based on Music Express. It is adapted to meet the needs of each class.

Musical instruments are labelled and stored in the music room. In order to keep these instruments tidy, accessible and in good working order, they must be returned to their proper place after use. Children must be accompanied by an adult when in the music room.

Various worksheets, CDs, songbooks and lesson plans are kept in the music room for staff use.

The two pianos are regularly tuned.

Health and Safety

To ensure the health and safety of our pupils, we will observe the following procedures:

- no sharing of blown instruments.
- No high storage of heavy instruments.
- No moving of the piano by the pupils.
- instruments will be checked regularly to ensure that they are in good repair and of good quality. All splintered or rusty instruments will be thrown away immediately.
- electrical equipment will be checked regularly.

Equal Opportunities

We believe that music is a powerful means of communication and therefore an excellent way of avoiding stereo-types. We will ensure that all pupils have access to a broad music curriculum and equal opportunities for participating and communicating their own musical ideas.

Reviewed January 2008