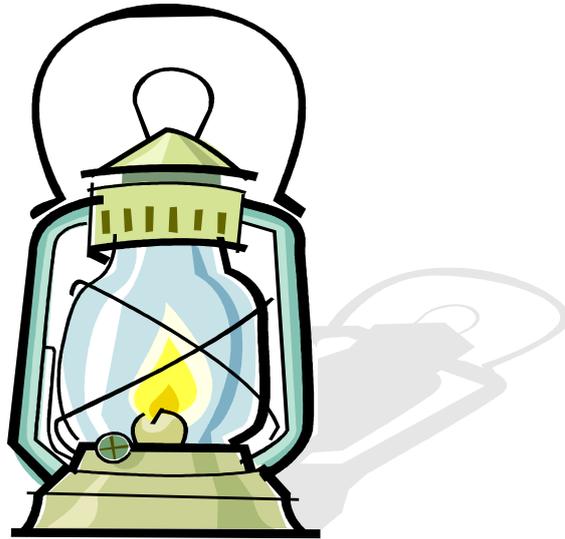




MUSIC POLICY



AUTUMN 2021



"Shine like a lantern in the presence of the Lord."

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Introduction

Music has a power to touch feelings and inspire emotions which transcends age and cultural differences. It enables children to develop listening, visual and co-ordination skills. Children also have the opportunity to enhance their concentration skills, their self-discipline and the skill of evaluating and appraising.

Many children come to school knowing songs and nursery rhymes and naturally express their own creativity. At school they learn to develop this by participating in a range of formal and informal music activities. They will also be able to use music as a foundation for many other learning skills. However, we also recognise that for others, school is the first opportunity to experience music; and additional encouragement may be necessary in order to reap the benefits of using music as a tool for learning.

At St. Bede's we believe that:

- Music provides a means of expression and communication for children of all abilities and is accessible to all.
- Social growth can be encouraged through music lessons, developing a child's self-esteem, group co-operation and self-awareness.
- Through listening and experiencing the music of other cultures, a child will develop respect for other tastes and ways of life.

Aims

The aims of the music programme are related to the overall aims of the school. We aim to:

1. Enable all children, regardless of gender, race or ability, to develop their full potential through a variety of musical activities.
2. Develop performing and composing skills.
3. Develop listening and appraising skills.
4. Promote the benefits, both educationally and socially, of participating in music in school and in the wider community.
5. Develop self-expression and explore the emotional potential of music.
6. Promote positive attitudes towards other cultures and tastes from a variety of periods in time.
7. Offer extra-curricular activities which further develop skills.
8. Help children appreciate the support for Christian worship and values that can be provided by sacred and secular music.

Content and Organisation

Music is a practical activity where children learn through first hand experience. Therefore, in music lessons, children are active whether it be through performing, composing, listening or understanding.

The core music curriculum is delivered by the music teacher to all children from Foundation stage to Year 6. From Year 1 onwards, each class has music timetabled for one hour per week in a single one-hour session. In addition, class teachers make use of music as a tool so support and inspire cross-curricular activities.

The music programme has been developed in line with the National Curriculum 2014.

FOUNDATION STAGE

Nursery/Reception

A 20-30 minute music session is led by the school music teacher once a week. This includes singing and movement; helping the children to keep in time with the beat, find their voice and sing in tune and become familiar with percussion instruments.

Children in Reception and Nursery each perform a Christmas nativity and the reception classes perform an assembly to families once a year.

St Bede's also has access to the "Experience The Music" scheme developed by EYFS music specialists from Redbridge Music Service. This uses music as a framework to support the development of social, language and other core skills.

KEY STAGE 1

Skills

Children learn to improvise, explore and create sounds in simple structures in accordance with National Curriculum guidelines. This can be related to a current topic to provide cross-curricular opportunities or, indeed, for the sheer pleasure of creating sound. They are taught and encouraged to understand, use and describe a range of musical dimensions in their music making.

Children use their voices to sing in unison, in rounds and in 2 simple parts. They use body movements expressively and to demonstrate understanding and play tuned and untuned instruments alone and with others. The children play and perform from memory and using simple graphic scores.

Children are given the opportunity to perform in the KS1 Christmas Nativity; each class also performs an assembly each year to their families and to other classes.

Listening and Understanding

Children listen to music from different times and places, recognising changes in substance, mood and learning how sounds are made. Children develop their musical vocabulary in order to assess and discuss the sounds they have heard. Children can interpret different sounds with given and invented symbols and are introduced to simple conventional musical notation.

KEY STAGE 2

Skills

Children play and perform accurately and confidently controlling diction and musical dimensions through vocal and instrumental means. They sing in unison, in rounds, in 2, 3 or 4 parts, they play tuned and untuned instruments alone and with others, both composing their own music and performing a range of melodies and accompaniments. The children play and perform from memory and from standard and graphic notation.

As in Key Stage 1, music activities have cross-curricular links.

Children are given the opportunity to perform at assemblies, Masses and concerts;

Year 4 perform the Easter Story in church each year and Year 6 present a musical production at the end of the academic year.

Listening and Understanding

Children respond to music, identifying musical dimensions, mood and character. Their listening and appraising skills are developed using active listening tasks such as creating art works, mind maps and diagrams or being physically and vocally involved with the listening task. Pupils are able to understand and appreciate music from other cultures and tastes, from a variety of periods in time as well as to express their own opinions.

The whole school is provided with opportunity to hear performances by other pupils in assemblies or Mass.

Live performances

Performances by musicians from the Redbridge Music Service take place in school every year, with every child in KS1 and KS2 having the opportunity to hear at least one.

In addition to this, children learning to play instruments are given the opportunity to play to their peers in class or assemblies throughout the year.

Choir

Up to 30 children in years 5 and 6 participate in the school choir which meets weekly after school throughout the year. This offers the opportunity for children to extend their group music making skills, general social skill and to improve their own individual vocal performance.

Through the choir, children have the opportunity to perform at the following events:-

- Whole-school Masses.
- Concerts, given twice a year for Governors, teachers, pupils and parents.
- Carol Singing at community venues such as the local church and hospitals.
- Diocese of Brentwood/Redbridge events.
- The Redbridge Music Service biennial Royal Albert Hall Festival and Singing Festival.
- Holy Communion Services.

Religious Music

Music plays a major role in the ethos of a Catholic school as it plays a vital part in developing a child's relationship with God and the Church. All children sing hymns at weekly assemblies and on special occasions in church. In years 2-6 attend weekly hymn practice sing

Progression

End of year statements are applied to the areas of activity specified in the programmes of study for each Key Stage. Music involves the development of knowledge, self-expression, creativity, understanding and listening skills through an inter-related process covering planning, performing and evaluating. The progression of pupils' personal, emotional and social development can be assessed through interaction with others during activities. KS2 children should gain an increasing understanding of conventional musical notation.

Differentiation

Planning for differentiation incorporates:-

1. Child groupings e.g. ability or mixed ability groups, paired or individual activities.
2. Resources e.g. a variety of equipment for different levels of ability.
3. Child activity, e.g. different tasks, responsibilities and activity together with a variation of pace within the lesson to meet the children's potential.
4. Extra-curricular activity to extend ability.

Assessment

The music programme is monitored and reviewed when necessary by the Music Teacher in consultation with other staff.

Observation and sound and video recording are used to collect evidence of progress as is discussion, answering questions and self-assessment.

Assessment for Learning is an integral part both of teacher's assessment and of pupil's self-assessment, used throughout each music lesson and end of topic statements provide the basis of half termly summative teacher assessment.

The criteria which can be used in assessing children's work in music includes:-

- accuracy
- flexibility
- co-operation
- imagination
- responsibility
- self-expression

Special Needs

Every child participates in music lessons and performances as far as possible according to his or her abilities.

Health & Safety

An annual safety inspection is carried out on all electrical equipment. If any damage occurs to equipment it must be reported to the Music Instructor immediately.

Inclusion

All children are given access to the Music Curriculum and extra-curricular activities regardless of gender, race or financial background.

During lesson time all children are taught within mixed groups and given access to all areas of the curriculum.

No child will be exempt for financial reasons and children who are eligible for free school meals can receive instrumental lessons at no cost to the family. All music clubs are currently delivered with no cost to the children.

Instrumental lessons

Instrumental lessons for woodwind, brass, violin, guitar and piano are available for children in year 3 upwards. Teachers are from the Redbridge music service. Children receive up to 30 minutes small group or individual tuition on the instrument of their choice (dependent on physical suitability). Instrumentalists are offered the chance to perform during school assemblies and concerts and are encouraged to further both their musical and instrumental learning by using the instrument for composing and playing activities during class music lessons. Lessons are paid for by parents, financial support is offered to families in receipt of certain benefits.

Charging Policy

All activities offered are free of charge except individual lessons given by peripatetic staff. Parents are invited to make a donation towards the costs of special activities (e.g. coach trips to a concert).