

Practice Guidance for Music

Why is Music important to the children in our school?

At Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School we believe that Music is a natural and important part of young children's growth and development. Early interaction with music positively affects the quality of all children's lives. Successful experiences in music help all children bond emotionally and intellectually with others through creative expression in song, rhythmic movement and listening experiences. Music in early childhood creates a foundation upon which future music learning is built.

What is Music?

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high quality Music education should engage 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.

Our approach to planning Music:

Music is planned as part of year group topics and through cross-curricular activities following EYFS and National Curriculum guidelines as set out in our STAR curriculum and Intent for Music (see appendices). Objectives are included in medium term topic planning and activities are planned for in blocked sessions. Individual Music lessons are planned in detail in a whole class format as part of weekly topic planning (approximately 18 hours over the year). This approach enables our children to make meaningful links and connections in their learning and to build on and embed their prior learning over a short period of time.

Music is taught using a Mastery approach with a 'Learning Without Limits' strategy. Challenge is provided through the planning of 'Earth, Moon and Stars' activities to allow children to show greater depth in their learning with all children being encouraged to 'reach for the stars'.

Essential resources for Music:

Instruments

Untuned instruments - we have two well stocked music cupboards (one for EYFS and KS1) providing a wide variety of percussion instruments available for all children in school to access. Children in Nursery and EYFS2 also have access to a small set of percussion instruments to access as part of their continuous provision. Instrument mats with pictures and names are kept in each cupboard.

Tuned instruments - we have a small number of chime bars sets, tuned bells, glockenspiels and xylophones in our music cupboards available for all children in school to access. Pupils in Year 2 are given the opportunity to learn to play the recorder as part of their Music lessons with each having their own recorder available to play in school.

Recorded Music – we have a wide variety of CDs of different musical genres and eras and a large collection of songbooks and CDs available to all in the school hall.

See appendices for detailed audit of musical resources.

Our approach to teaching and learning in Music:

Music is taught across the academic year in all year groups using a Mastery approach following our whole school 'Music Intent and STAR Curriculum' document.

In EYFS Music is taught through two main areas: 'Creating with materials' and 'Being Imaginative and Expressive' following guidance from the 'Development Matters' (non-statutory) and 'Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework' documents.

In Key Stage One Music is taught through four main areas: 'Singing, Listening, Musicianship (Performing) and Composing' following guidance from the KS1 National Curriculum.

We have a dedicated Arts Week each year where children's learning is largely focused on the Creative Arts subjects – Music, Art and DT (also incorporating Dance and Drama).

There is an expectation that all children across school will be explicitly taught musical vocabulary using differentiated vocabulary mats and posters and knowledge mats developed by the Creative team (see appendix). Children are also given the opportunity to learn about the life and work of famous composers and to listen and respond to music from a wide range of musical genres. As part of Arts Week children are given the opportunity to celebrate their learning in showcase activities which involve each class and/or year group sharing and performing to others. During Arts Week a learning walk is carried out by staff from the Creative team and pupil interviews are undertaken.

Music in the learning environment:

Music is an integral part of our EYFS provision with children being encouraged to explore making sounds in music making areas both in the classroom and outdoor learning environments.

The teaching and learning of Music is evident in all classrooms with musical vocabulary posters and mats, children's work and photographs displayed as appropriate. Famous pieces of music and/or musicians are regularly used as a stimulus for learning.

Our approach to assessment in Music:

Music is taught and assessed using a Mastery approach with a 'Learning Without Limits' strategy. Challenge is provided through the planning of 'Earth, Moon and Stars' activities with all children encouraged to 'Reach for the stars'.

Music is assessed as part of the EYFS curriculum at summative assessment points during the year – September (AP1), February (AP2) and June (AP3). Judgements are made against 'Creating with materials' and 'Being Imaginative and Expressive' statements in the EYFS 'Development Matters' document with children judged to be working at an 'Working Towards' (WTS/WTS+), Expected (EXS/EXS+) or Greater Depth (GDS) level of learning. Children are assessed against Early Learning Goals at the end of the year in EYFS2.

A Key Stage 1 assessment document is currently being developed in line with other foundation subjects across school. Music will be assessed during the Spring and Summer terms (AP1 and 2) in Key Stage 1 with 'best fit' judgements being made against the objectives on our STAR Music curriculum. Children will be judged to be working at a 'Working Towards' (WTS), Expected (EXS) or Greater Depth (GDS) level of learning and data is collected, collated and monitored by the Creative Team.

Intervention in Music:

As we teach Music using a mastery approach, Music is accessible to all children with varied outcomes and levels of support. Music is used as part of our sensory provision for SEND children who require it.

Music across the curriculum:

As with all foundation subjects in our school, the teaching and learning of Music takes place across topics with an emphasis on cross-curricular links. Music, and particularly singing, is incorporated consistently into daily classroom routines and is used to enhance learning in other curriculum subjects wherever possible.

Enrichment opportunities in Music:

Assemblies – children are given opportunities to sing a range of traditional hymns throughout the year following a whole school ‘hymn of the month’ plan. There is a focus on quality performance and links are made to the inter-related dimensions of music as outlined in the National Curriculum.

Year Group Singing Sessions – These take place on a regular basis and are planned and led by teaching staff within the year group. Children are taught short warm-up activities and to sing a collection of age appropriate topic related songs with an emphasis on quality performance. Children are regularly given opportunities to sing and perform to their peers – eg Harvest and Easter assemblies, Christmas Shows, Year 2 leavers Concert, Arts Weeks performances.

Music Workshops – each year we welcome music specialists into school to provide music workshops for our children. Over the year all children in EYFS2, Year 1 and Year 2 are given the opportunity to take part in workshops involving learning about and playing tuned and untuned instruments from around the world. Following the workshops all children are given the opportunity to perform to others to showcase their work. We have also established links with our local Secondary School music department which has involved opportunities for their students to perform to our pupils.

Rock Steady Music Lessons - We currently offer the opportunity for children to have music lessons on guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals in lessons administered by the Rock Steady Music School. These weekly half hour lessons are paid for by parents, with some funded places being available for vulnerable children (Pupil Premium) and take place in school hours. At the end of each term the children having lessons are given the opportunity to showcase their work to their peers and parents.

Choir – an extra-curricular after school choir club is offered to KS1 pupils during the Summer term led by the Music Lead. Children are taught short warm-up activities and to sing a collection of age appropriate topic related songs with an emphasis on quality performance. Children are taught musical vocabulary linked to singing and performance. Extra-curricular clubs are paid for by parents, with some funded places being available for vulnerable children (Pupil Premium) and take place after school. At the end of the course of sessions children are given the opportunity to showcase their work to their parents in a final performance.

Musical References:

National Curriculum in England: Primary Curriculum
Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.
Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters (non-statutory)

Musical Appendices:

Whole school STAR intent and curriculum
Vocabulary posters
Vocabulary mats
Knowledge mats
Resources audit
Singing assembly planning
Whole School Collective Worship Plan

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