



**St Mary's**  
Catholic Primary School and Nursery

**MUSIC CURRICULUM SUBJECT STATEMENT**

**CURRICULUM AIMS**

At St Mary's we shape our curriculum so that all pupils are provided with high quality teaching and learning, with Jesus Christ at the centre of all we do. We aim to teach pupils how to grow into positive, responsible citizens, who can work and co-operate with others while developing the knowledge and skills to achieve their true potential.

*"The Christian life is a call to a deeper communion with God and with one another, and this finds particular expression in our schools, which are rightly recognised as being families themselves, where no one is a stranger and where everyone, whatever his or her background or academic ability, is welcomed, treasured, supported and helped to become the person whom God calls them to be."*

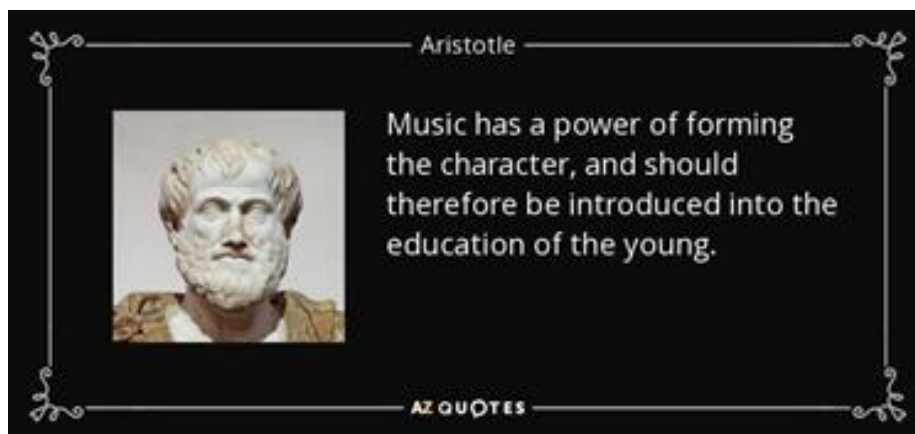
Bishop Malcolm MacMahon.

We aim:

To provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life;

To provide a friendly, nurturing environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and to promote the full potential of each child through a curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, creative, social and emotional growth;

To provide a curriculum which is enriching and challenging, where pupils experience the opportunity to learn in a wide range of contexts.



## INTENT



*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. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.*  
(The National Curriculum)

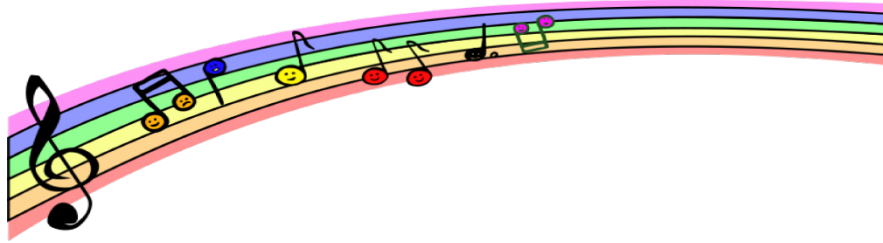
Music is a unique way of communicating, it is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in personal and cognitive development. Music at St Mary's aims to reflect the culture and society that we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enable children to better understand 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.

Music teaching at St Mary's aims to follow the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music, providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and ensuring the progressive development of musical concepts, knowledge and skills.

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- ♪ perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians,
- ♪ learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence,
- ♪ understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.



## IMPLEMENTATION

At St Mary's we ensure that performing is at the heart of all musical activity and learners are given every opportunity to experiment with instruments and voices, and to experience making music with others.

Music teaching at St Mary's delivers the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Foundation Stage curriculum through half-termly topics and teachers plan lessons based on our knowledge and skills ladder and the Classroom Monitor objectives, ensuring that the skills, knowledge and vocabulary taught are progressive and consistent throughout the school.



Our curriculum 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. However, music is a specialist subject and not all teachers are music specialists. Music at St Mary's is taught by class teachers. We use Charanga as a resource which enables clear coverage of the music curriculum whilst also providing support and CPD for less confident teachers to deliver lessons. All teachers recently received Charanga music CPD.



Teachers choose Charanga units of work which meet their termly objectives and match the need and interests of the children in their class. The units can be followed as a scheme of lessons or used more flexibly as a resource to support their other music teaching.

Each unit of work has an ongoing musical learning focus and a unit specific focus to enable previous musical skills to be embedded. Each unit follows a specific learning sequence, and each lesson builds on the previous one:

- Listening and Appraising- different styles, times, genres
- Musical Activities – the interrelated dimensions of music
- Learning a song
- Playing instruments
- Composition and/or innovation
- Performing what has been learnt so far.

St Mary's is a 'Singing School' and we have a Silver Award from 'Sing Up'.

We believe 'Singing lifts the spirits, heals the heart and feeds the soul' ('Power in the Music', Sing Up 2020). Almost without exception, everyone has the potential to sing competently and enjoy singing across their lifespan. Childhood provides a crucial opportunity to lay the foundations of a positive lifelong singing (and musical) identity.

'Sing Up' is used as one of our main resources for choosing and teaching songs for performance. Each song is carefully chosen to support the children at their stage of learning, to develop their musical abilities and to meet the needs of the National Curriculum.



Each term's musical learning leads to an opportunity for all children to take part in a performance. This includes Christmas services in December, 'Sing Up Day' in March and an end of term performance in summer. As well as these, pupils also take part in class assemblies and other singing events. Pupils

who are confident are also encouraged to perform solo. Parents are invited and welcomed to watch all of these performances whether at school or outside school. The school's musical programme is enhanced by opportunities to see live performances which include theatre and musical concerts performed by professional musicians. We also take part in opportunities provided by our local music Hub, the Love Music Trust, such as courses of vocal tuition, singing events and workshops.

At St Mary's we also offer every child the opportunity to learn two instruments. Year 1 children learn the recorder as part of their music curriculum using Charanga Musical World which can also be accessed at home to allow the children to practise. They each take a school recorder home for the duration of the programme. They are then given the choice to continue to learn the recorder at a lunchtime recorder club.



Year 3 children all learn the guitar through the Wider Opportunities programme provided by the local not-for-profit organisation 'Music for Life'. At the end of the year they can continue to learn the guitar in a small group or individually with a visiting tutor, or may choose to take up a different instrument.

Our peripatetic music teaching is organised by the Music for Life, where lessons are provided weekly for a small set fee paid by the child's parent or carer. Pupils that learn a musical instrument have the opportunity to perform to parents at regular concerts.

Other extra-curricular musical activities are the Key Stage 1 'Sing for Fun' club, 'Playground singing' and the school choir which meets once a week and has the opportunity to perform in school performances, carol concerts and local and national events.



## EYFS

The EYFS framework is structured differently to the National Curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The Early Years outcomes for Music are taken from the following areas of learning:

### Expressive arts and design

This involves supporting children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. It involves providing children with opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

### ELG 16 Exploring and using media and materials:

- Children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them.

### ELG 17 Being imaginative:

- They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through ..... music, dance,...

Example of these outcomes in practice are:

- Annual participation in 'Sing Up!'
- Advent celebration.
- An outdoor music area where the children can listen to their favourite music through our Bluetooth speaker.
- Instruments are available during continuous provision.
- Topic-specific songs and rhymes linked to current themes.
- Phase 1 phonics.



- Dough disco.
- Children requesting to listen to their favourites.
- Listening to different classical music.
- Singing as part of routine e.g. tidy up song.
- Pulse and rhythm games.
- In short: Music is part of our everyday.

## INCLUSION

All children receive 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. In addition, our school offers a vibrant, demanding and varied curriculum, providing all our pupils with a range of opportunities in order for them to reach their full potential, enjoy and achieve regardless of their starting points.

## 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, discrete teaching of vocabulary also forms part of the units of work.

Assessment is ongoing and built into every lesson. Children are encouraged to reflect and improve on their own performances by using video and audio recordings taken during practice.

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 link governor.
- CPD and staff meetings with opportunities for dialogue between teachers.
- 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, based on performances.

The impact of our music curriculum is also measured in the popularity of our music extra-curricular clubs and additional peripatetic teaching.