

Music Policy



“Our school is a place where we all come together as one community to learn, have fun and make lasting friendships all under God’s love and care”

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1. Rationale

Music is not only a National Curriculum Primary subject but it is an integral part of life at St Lawrence Catholic Primary School. From class worship to class assemblies, from hymn practice to school concerts – music is everywhere! Music opens pathways for *all* pupils from Nursery to Year 6: to gain self-confidence, grow their creativity and develop a sense of achievement. Music forms part of a broad and balanced education for all pupils.

2. Policy Aims

In line with the National Curriculum, St Lawrence aims to encourage all pupils to:

- 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.

3. Pupils' Experiences

In Music, opportunities are created for pupils to:

- Listen, appraise, perform and compose in a variety of genres, styles and traditions;
- Play a range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments;
- Compose and improvise to develop creativity;
- Work individually, in groups or as a whole class;
- Make appropriate use of I.C.T. to create and record music;

- Make use of outside agencies e.g. peripatetic teachers (guitar and ukulele);
- Make use of audio/visual material;
- Record findings in a variety of ways e.g. notation, videos, drawings;
- Learn one musical instrument in whole class ensemble lessons (Ukulele -Year 3, Recorder Year 5);
- Perform to wider audiences of parents, local community and other schools at end of year productions, assemblies, Mass;
- Attend after school Music club – Choir (KS2).

4. Inclusion

Music is taught to all children, regardless of individual ability or needs and regardless of race, gender, or cultural background.

We aim to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, those with English as an additional language and those who are gifted and talented.

In Music, we provide learning opportunities to enable all children to make progress and achieve their full potential.

At St. Lawrence, we recognise that musical ability differs with each individual child, so we aim to provide suitable learning opportunities, which are differentiated, to meet the needs of all children. For example –

- Setting open-ended tasks with a variety of outcomes
- Setting challenges and tasks of increasing difficulty
- Providing Flash cards with musical instrument names
- Using class LSA's to support children
- Grouping children in mixed abilities or by ability

5. Planning

Music is a foundation primary subject in the National Curriculum 2014. All of our planning for Music is in line with the curriculum attainment targets and aims.

Our lessons follow the 'Charanga' Music Scheme from Reception to Year 2; Year 4 and Year 6.

Children in our Early Years phase follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. In Expressive Arts and Design, the development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. In Nursery, 3 and 4-year-olds will be learning to: listen with increased attention to sounds, respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings, create their own songs or improvise and play instruments. Children in reception will be learning to: listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses, watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses, sing in a group or on their own and explore and engage in music making and dance.

Children in Year 3 will learn Ukulele and children in Year 5 will learn Recorder through the Hounslow Music Service.

Each class has a 30 minute weekly Music lesson (Year 3 and 5 – 45 minute lesson with HMS).

Class teachers and PPA teacher teach Music in alternation.

Music contributes to the wider cross-curricular aims of Primary Education e.g. English, Maths, Art, P.S.H.E. and RE.

6. Additional Music Teaching

From September 2021, St. Lawrence Year 3 pupils will receive weekly Ukulele tuition. From September 2022, St Lawrence Year 5 pupils will receive weekly Recorder tuition. This is part of the 'First Access' service provided by Hounslow Music Service. They will have 30x 45 minute lessons for the whole year.

St. Lawrence also offers parents of children in KS2 (Year 4-6) the opportunity to pay for Guitar lessons with a tutor during the school day once weekly.

7. Assessment

Assessment is ongoing: Class teachers make own observations and judgements about the pupils in their class in Music.

Teachers record work through pictures and videos of class performances, compositions and improvisations.

8. Resources

Each year group shares a percussion instrument box filled with a wide variety of instruments e.g. bells, shakers, maracas.

Tambourines, glockenspiels and drums are stored in the two Music cupboards in the ICT suite.

The whole school has access to Charanga Music scheme online.

Piano is stored in the assembly hall.

HMS provides Ukuleles for Year 3 pupils. Recorders are provided by school for each individual child in Year 5.

9. Musical Events

All children in St. Lawrence take part in hymn practice, class worship and assemblies daily, where they learn new songs and sing as part of a group.

At Christmas time, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 sing and play percussion as part of their infant nativity performance. Key Stage 2 sing and play percussion as part of their junior carol concert.

There is a 'Music Day' once a year in summer term to display the musical talent of St. Lawrence pupils. On this day, there will be an assembly with performances by instrumentalists, the school choir and class performances too. Class work on this day will be dedicated to Music and follow a specific theme.

At other times of the year e.g. Harvest, Easter, Feast Days, Mass and class assemblies, year groups or the whole school come together to provide appropriate musical entertainment to their families, peers and communities.

10. Health and Safety

- Using instruments appropriately.
- Follow Covid procedures as per risk assessment e.g. wiping down shared instruments, not sharing recorders.
- Instruments inspected regularly

11. Monitoring and Review

The coordination and planning of the music curriculum are the responsibility of the Music subject leader, who also:

- Supports colleagues by keeping them informed about current developments in Music and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject (e.g. through INSET meetings);
- Discusses progress with SLT and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in Music, indicating areas for further improvement;
- Reviews evidence of the children's work and teachers planning;
- Observes Music lessons taught by the teachers and asks pupils questions during pupil voice interviews.
- Assesses Music as a subject during a quality assurance day once a year.