



Music at St Columba's Catholic Primary

Intent

At St Columba's primary school, we aim to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music. We believe that music is a unique and powerful form of communication that can affect a pupil's mood and the way that they feel, think and act. Music has many benefits; it can increase listening and concentration skills, self-esteem, confidence, creativity and memory. It is our intent to make music an enjoyable learning experience for all.

Our aim is to provide a music curriculum which will enable each child to reach their full potential in music, encourage children to enjoy singing, composing and performing and provide children with the opportunity to perform in front of an audience both within and outside of school.

Our curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

- can confidently perform either singing or playing an instrument, either solo or as part of a group.
- compose and create songs with verses and chorus and create rhythmic patterns and an awareness of timbre and duration; digital technology may be used to compose, edit and refine pieces of music.
- begin to transcribe and use standard musical notation and read and create notes on the musical stave.
- Describe music, using a wide range of musical vocabulary to accurately describe and appraise.

Implementation

Early Years Foundation Stage

Expressive Arts and Design (Exploring and Using Media and Materials)

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

Expressive Arts and Design (Being Imaginative)

Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

In line with the National Curriculum, Key stage 1 children are taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music

Key stage 2 children are taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music
- the children use music technology where possible

We use Sing Up from Reception – Year 6 to ensure a wide exposure to different genres of music, with lots of practical opportunities to explore and develop as musicians and singers. Across both key stages, children have a range of opportunities to take part in musical performances. Performances, such as Christmas plays, class assemblies, celebration assemblies and school masses demonstrate that music is important to the life of the school.

We have weekly singing assemblies which allow the children to develop their singing skills and gain an understanding of how ensembles work.

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have a school choir which we encourage children from Year 3 to Year 6 to join. The choir meets on a weekly basis and, although its primary aim is to enable children to enjoy singing together, the choir often performs within school and in public.

We have a range of tuned and un-tuned instruments available to the whole school. The children in Year 2 learn to play the recorder and children in KS2 learn to play the ukulele and violin.

Front Row Music offer specialist music tuition in guitar and ukulele to children in Year 1 to Year 6.

We have peripatetic teachers that come into school to teach whole class and small group violin and piano lessons.

Impact

Children will:

- enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles.
- explore how sounds are made, and how music is produced by a variety of instruments.
- develop imagination and creativity.
- build a sense of pulse and rhythm.
- understand a range of musical vocabulary.
- develop the interrelated skills of composition, improvisation, performance and appreciation.

- enjoy a wide range of songs and sing in tune.
- develop positive attitudes and to experience success and satisfaction in music.

Assessment

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and give oral feedback. Older pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher will keep samples of children's work for evidence.

At St Columba's our evidence is collected through:

- SeeSaw
- Pictures and video clips
- Discussion with pupils, staff, governors
- Pupil voice