

WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

"...putting children first..."



MUSIC POLICY

Date reviewed: October 2021

Reviewed by: R Earl

Ratified by Governors: October 2021

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity.” (The National Curriculum)

At Whitehills Primary, with support of the Charanga scheme, we are able to provide pupils with a variety of opportunities to not only learn musical skills and vocabulary but also to appreciate and celebrate different cultural differences. We believe that Music can provide pupils with the opening to express themselves in different forms, develop an understanding of the cultural diversity around them and access a range stimulating and engaging resources. In this subject, we hope for our pupils to foster a life-long love of music by exposing them to diverse musical experiences and igniting a passion of music. Through listening and responding to different music styles, finding their singing voice, developing their composing skills – we aspire for all pupils to become confident and reflective musicians.

The aims of our Music curriculum are to develop pupils who:

- Can sing and use their voices as a form of expression, either individually or as part of a group
- Have opportunities to learn a music instrument
- Create and compose their own music
- Understand and explore how music is created and the history behind different genres of music
- Use the technical musical language appropriately when reflecting on a piece of music
- Develop their own personal reviews and judgements about the music styles they enjoy and can relate to
- Have an appreciation for a range of different music styles
- Have the opportunity to take part in different performances

Rationale

We see the teaching of music at Whitehills Primary School as a means of providing children with a life enhancing experience. Music enables children to express thoughts, ideas and feelings in ways that they may previously not have been able to do. Music makes a significant contribution to children’s self-esteem and development.

Structure

Children are taught music weekly from Foundation Stage through to Year 6. It is taught as a separate subject and where possible is linked to other subjects. Music is supplemented by extra-curricular activities, including a school choir.

Aims

We teach music to:-

- Enable children to see music as a life changing experience
- Express ideas, thoughts and feelings through involvement in composing, performing and listening activities.
- Develop social skills, awareness and respect through making music co-operatively with others

- Offer the opportunity to develop personal satisfaction and self-confidence
- Develop an awareness of, and begin to recognise a wide variety of musical styles, including music of different cultures and different historical periods.
- Offer equal opportunity to all children to learn about music and share in music making, including those with additional needs.
- Encourage children receiving instrumental tuition to use their skills and knowledge in class and share with others in the school.
- Support other areas of the curriculum through cross curricular links.
- Promote and support other areas of the curriculum through cross curricular links.
- Promote and support curriculum music for all children as an entitlement through classroom experience and to follow the National Curriculum in full.
- Promote the continuing development of expertise and confidence in music for all members of the teaching staff.
- Develop pupils who can sing and use their voices as a form of expression, either individually or as part of a group.

Organisation and Planning

The core of musical activity takes place in the studio or classroom, but use of the hall also provides opportunity to combine music, movement and drama with music e.g class assemblies, school performances. The planning of music lessons is based mainly around the Charanga scheme which focuses on the development of the musical elements (pulse, rhythm, pitch), singing and playing musical instruments, listening and creating music.

The units of work are split into 6 steps – to fit in within a term. These elements are taught through discrete units from Foundation stage to Year 6.

How the scheme is structured

Each Unit of Work comprises of the strands of musical learning which correspond with the National Curriculum for music:

Listening and Appraising

Singing

Playing instruments

Improvisation

Composition

Performing

As staff confidence and skill is varied, the scheme supports all teachers in the delivery of lessons. Examples of videos allow staff to see the expectations required to ensure lessons are of a good quality.

Singing is considered a hugely important part of music in our school. Every assembly starts with a song. This ensures that all ages can participate in singing enthusiastically and

confidently and also ensures exposure to a wide range of musical genres. Our PSHE scheme also involves a whole school song for each unit and this shared with years 1-6 at the start of each new term.

Differentiation

Musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear. The strands of musical learning, presented within the lesson plans and the on-screen resources, are part of the learning spiral. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Repeating a musical skill doesn't necessarily mean their progress is slowing down or their development is moving backwards. It's just shifting within the spiral. Mastery means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

Teachers will provide opportunities for appropriate activities to be assigned to ability levels. These may be activities for individuals, small groups or the whole class. Many activities emphasise differentiation by outcomes, but Charanga also provides extension activities for more able children.

All children in Year 4 have the opportunity to play as a whole year group for 2 terms paid for by the school. If children show an aptitude for music during their music class, they will be encouraged to take up one of the instruments. These lessons are paid for by the parents in accordance with the school's charging policy. Children are able to access peripatetic lessons from visiting teachers from Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust in brass, woodwind, strings, drums and guitar.

The school aims to provide access to live music making via specialist visitors, Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust instrumental groups and local school bands.

Musically talented pupils can be developed by:-

Setting demanding challenges, expecting higher quality responses

Encouraging connections between ideas

Pupils setting their own challenging tasks

Giving opportunities to practice higher technical skills

Leading/conducting the class.

Encouragement of participating in a Saturday music centre or auditioning for county music groups.

Health and safety

Instruments are put away carefully after each session.

Instruments are stored appropriately to size, weight and shape on music trolleys in the studio.

Children are taught to take care when transporting instruments.

Extra care is taken with any electronic equipment.

Appropriate steps are taken to ensure hygienic use of blowing instruments such as recorders.

Resources

A variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments are available for class music.

Charanga scheme – books and lesson plans + online additional supplementary resources from Foundation to Year 6.

CD players

Piano in hall

Electric drum kit and full drum kit

CDs for listening to in assembly

A wide selection of song books

Assessment

As part of the Charanga scheme, there is a comprehensive assessment package which staff will use. Staff will complete assessment for all children in December, March and July. Clear age related expectations are set out for all staff.