



## Music Curriculum Statement

### Why is Music important?

At St. George's Central, we believe that Music is a powerful, unique form of communication, which can change the way that pupils think, feel and act. It brings together intellect and feeling, and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of our culture past and present, music helps pupils to understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between home, school, Church and the wider world. The teaching of music develops pupils' ability in the fundamental skills of listening, improvising, composing, performing, appraising and appreciating and celebrating cultural differences. It offers the opportunity for active involvement in different forms of amateur music making, both individually and collaboratively, helping to develop a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment. Music can also have many physical benefits, such as the development of the muscles around the larynx and increased fine-motor control, in addition to promoting the self-esteem and well-being of all pupils within the school setting.

Music endorses the school policy on inclusion by providing effective learning opportunities for all pupils by setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupils' diverse needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of children. In an area which has experience of deprivation, Music education provides a vital means of mitigating against social and economic deprivation, and central to this is the need for all pupils to have a wide range of cultural experiences.

### What is Music like at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery?

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music;
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music using a wide range of tuned and untuned instruments;
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

- During the Foundation Stage, children will regularly come into contact with Music, following the guidance from the 'Expressive Arts and Design' strand in the 2014 EYFS framework. This will involve activities such as singing simple songs and rhymes that can be learned by heart. Children will also be provided with the opportunity to explore and play musical instruments.
- In Key Stages 1 and 2, Music teaching will fulfil the programmes of study as outlined in the National Curriculum for Music.
- Wherever possible, Music will be taught in a cross-curricular manner alongside the humanities topic currently being studied from the Clive Davies 'Focus' materials. This has been prepared on a long-term plan for each year group over cycles A and B and ensures the coverage of the National Curriculum attainment targets.

***'Never settle for less than your best'***

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- Where humanities links cannot be made, Music will be planned and delivered from the Greater Manchester Music Hub's 'Charanga' website, which includes detailed schemes of work, covering music from different cultures, times and genres and encouraging children to experiment using their voices, body percussions and instruments.
- Pupils in upper Key Stage 2 will be involved in the 'Musical Futures' programme, which involves children learning to play guitar, drums and keyboard. They will complete 'band' projects, undertaking a range of composing activities and will be encouraged to perform their compositions.
- Children will learn the subjective nature of Music and understand that it can take on many forms of expression, whilst still gaining a solid knowledge and understanding of the skills required to express themselves creatively.
- Children will be encouraged to respond critically to both theirs and their peer's work and provide positive evaluations and ideas for further development.
- Wherever possible, we will encourage visitors to our school to enhance the musical experiences that our children have.
- Children will be encouraged to participate and be fully involved in Music at their own level of confidence and ability.
- Children's work will be assessed regularly through observation during lessons, evaluation of finished pieces and discussion of pupil opinions/choices. Teachers will record the progress made by each child against the learning objectives for their lessons. The teacher will make an assessment of progress for each child as part of the child's annual report to parents.
- Children in the Year 4 cohort will be involved in the Wider-Opportunities Music initiative, which aims to provide children with free music tuition for a year. This will allow all Year 4 children to have free access to a percussion instrument for the duration of the year, after which they can choose to continue with their instrument through peripatetic lessons.
- We will offer a variety of extra-curricular Music activities to provide children with the opportunity to take part in Music outside of the usual curriculum Music lessons. For a small cost to parents, Children in Years 2-6 can opt to have peripatetic music lessons provided by teachers from Wigan Music Service. Also, children in Years 3-6 can join the school choir, which will focus on developing their vocal abilities through the use of chants, solo singing and group singing activities. This will also promote children's enjoyment of singing. Children in the choir will be given regular opportunities to perform to audiences throughout the year and a variety of different events. There will also be a child-led club known as 'Magical Music' which will take place in the Music room one lunchtime per week to allow children the opportunity to explore the instruments in their own time.
- In addition to voluntary activities, school assemblies provide opportunities for all children to sing communally, which forms an important part of our school ethos.

### **Opportunities to celebrate Music at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery**

Children are given many opportunities to celebrate their learning in Music:

- During Worship, all children are given the opportunity to sing together and learn a range of Christian themed songs.
- Children in the Year 4 cohort perform in three concerts over the course of the year to showcase their learning of the instruments that they study each term. They study tuned percussion, African drumming and Samba drumming. Parents are invited to these performances as a celebration of children's achievement.
- Children who attend the school choir are involved in many events over the year. These events include but are not limited to:
  - The Rotary Club Christmas Carol Service;
  - Switching on the Christmas lights on Tyldesley Market Square;
  - The Rotary Club Shoebox Appeal Service;
  - Community concerts;
  - The Athos Singing Festival;
  - Performances for parents during worship.
- Photographs and short video clips are often taken during lessons and shared on social media platforms to allow parents and carers to see how children are progressing with their musical learning.
- Annual visits from the 'Music Alive' team allow children the chance to see professional musicians performing at a very high standards. This demonstrates the dedication and commitment needed to learn to play an instrument and what can be achieved if children do begin to learn.

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- Annual visit to the 'Gala Concert' organised by Wigan music service for our Year 5 cohort. This showcases the talents of the Wigan Youth Orchestra and gives children the opportunity to witness young musicians performing some very complex pieces of music. Prior to these concerts, staff from Wigan Music Service come into school to deliver workshops, preparing children for the styles and genres of music they will hear at the concert.
- IsingPop concerts are done on a 2/3 yearly basis. They entail a company coming into school to teach all of the children in school a range of modern, upbeat songs with religious themes along with dances and actions. This learning culminates in a mass concert at St. George's Church, to which parents are invited.
- The Pop Project visit school on a 2/3 yearly basis. This is a company who teach children about popular music over time and how it has changed. This is often linked to learning in history and is useful when special events are taking place (e.g. The World Cup, The Olympics)
- Within curriculum lessons, children who are receiving peripatetic lessons or who show natural talent towards music are encouraged to perform or model concepts to other children. This utilises their skills in a particular instrument area and can help to focus other children.

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