



## How we assess children's learning in Music

At St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, we employ a variety of formative and summative approaches in order to assess children's learning and to inform next steps in progress. Within Early Years, Music falls within the 'Expressive Arts and Design' section of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

In Early Years, formative assessment lies at the heart of providing a supporting and stimulating environment for every child. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into 1 – 3 year olds, 3 and 4 year olds and the Reception year. Parental contributions, for example: Ages and Stages questionnaires, Seesaw observations and informal conversations, together with school based Seesaw observations and practitioner knowledge inform these assessments.

Children will be assessed on entry to our 2 year old provision, pre-school provision and Reception class. The children are then assessed during play, when practitioners are guiding their learning, and during directed teaching. In Early Years, summative data is collected at the end of each term. In Nursery, this termly data is submitted to the Headteacher and Assessment leader and in Reception, it is also collected by the Local Authority. Children are judged to be working at an expected standard or working towards an expected standard. There are two legally required summative assessment reports during the Early Years; they are the Statutory Check at age 2 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Summative assessment supports children at their transition points through their Early Years journey, for example: when a child moves from a Nursery setting into a Reception class.

Parents/carers are regularly informed about their child's assessments and progress both informally and formally throughout their time in Early Years.

Within Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, each unit of learning in Music has a key question to focus the development of the topic, for example: 'What are the features of R&B music?' Lessons are then planned to ensure learning meets the expectations of the National Curriculum and allow the children to focus on the overarching question. At the beginning of each unit, the children are introduced to the relevant knowledge organiser to assess prior understanding and key vocabulary. Throughout the unit, teachers will regularly assess children's learning, using this information to guide and inform planning in order to meet children's individual learning needs.

Assessment in Music is mainly undertaken through questioning of children, as well as observing them taking part in musical activities and listening to their responses to musical stimuli. Evidence of progress is often collected through photographs, sound and video recordings and can be referred to as a means by which to assess children's progress.

Termly teacher assessments are undertaken for each child to track progress in the different areas of Music: listening and appraising, playing games, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition and performing. At the end of the year, teachers submit a 'best fit' judgement for each child based on 'working towards', 'working at' or 'working above' the expected standard for Music, relating to work produced throughout all topics.

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

*Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12*