MUSIC GUIDELINES (CURRICULUM)

Reviewer: Eleanor Laxton

Updated: October 2022

(by Mandy Bennett)

Review: Autumn 2024

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles, strategies and procedures for the teaching and learning of music throughout the school.

INTENT

At Whitegrove we believe that musical development is a vital part of the broad and balanced curriculum. Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

Aims

- To know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- To know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- To know how music is composed and written down;
- To know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- To develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

National Curriculum

At Key Stages 1 and 2, schemes of work are planned in accordance with the requirements stated in the National Curriculum document. Cross-curricular links are explored where appropriate, including the use of ICT to create and perform music.

We are preparing to develop plans in line with the Model Music Curriculum (2021) in order to offer children a more comprehensive experience of learning music. This will support staff in the delivery of the aspects of music teaching outlined in our Aims.

IMPLEMENTATION

Teaching Methods

Lessons are planned according to units outlined on the school's curriculum plan. Within these units, planning takes account of the progression of skills within the National Curriculum.

We make music an enjoyable learning experience, encouraging children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching and we offer class based and whole school

opportunities to develop this. Children develop their skills using tuned and untuned instruments, and have many opportunities to perform their compositions.

Children in Year 4 participate in the In2Music project where all children are given instrumental music lessons weekly by specialist staff from the Berkshire Maestros music hub. This takes place from Autumn term to Summer term and culminates in a small concert for the Year 4 parents.

In addition, we make cross curricular links where appropriate. We take part in a whole-school project based on the BBC Ten Pieces, with each year group working on a chosen piece and presenting to the rest of the school.

The school has a thriving KS2 singing club which takes place weekly during lunch time.

Children are encouraged to perform musically in assemblies, other school events and at wider community events.

Progression for all pupils

At our school we teach music to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our music teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress.

IMPACT

Assessment

Assessment is used informatively to plan appropriate future activities and in doing so ensure continuity and progress of all pupils which will enable us to ensure every child meets their potential. Assessment is used to inform reporting at the end of the year when the annual written report is completed.

The role of the Music Leader

- Supporting and working with colleagues and keeping them informed of changes and developments within their subject.
- Monitoring the relevance, continuity and progression of the music curriculum throughout the school and recommending any action needed.
- Providing advice about the Music policy and schemes of work.
- Keeping, updating and extending resources, ensuring staff are aware of their availability and identifying future needs.
- Keeping own skills and knowledge up to date through reading and attending relevant courses and by developing links with sources of expertise and information beyond the school.