

Music Policy St. Joseph's Catholic School

Policy Reviewed: December 2008



This policy document should be considered in the light of our School Mission Statement, which underlines all that underpins our work at St. Joseph's:

At St. Joseph's
we live, love and learn
by the example of Jesus

Introduction

Music is an integral part of life at St. Joseph's. We believe it is a very important part of the school curriculum and that all children should be encouraged to achieve their full potential in music.

Music lessons throughout the school are taught by a specialist teacher

Each week lessons are given as follows:

- Years 4, 5 and 6: 1 hour
- Year 3: 45 minutes Wider Opportunities Recorder
- Years 1 and 2: 30 minutes
- Nursery and Reception: 30 minutes together

Scheme of Work

We aim to provide a differentiated music curriculum for all children, based on the QCA National Curriculum for Music and supported by other appropriate materials, such as "Three Rapping Rats" and "Singing Phonics". All classes are regularly involved in performing, composing, listening and appraising activities suited to their age and ability levels.

A music ICT programme has been installed on the school network and the ICT suite will be in use with all classes during the course of the year. Using the "2-simple music programme" children can learn about connecting sounds with symbols, explore and create sequences of sounds, compose their own music and many other activities also.

In Key Stage 2 we will continue to use the QCA schemes of work as a basis for planning exciting and stimulating activities and projects. In Key Stage 1, the curriculum will also include AC Black's "Tom Thumb's Musical Maths" to continue helping children improve their numeracy skills and also "Singing Phonics" to provide support for literacy lessons. These schemes will also be supplemented by activities from the Kodaly system of music education in an on-going exploration of this technique.

Expected Outcomes

- All children will be encouraged to sing with enjoyment and enthusiasm from an early age.
- Children will work together harmoniously making music as a group, sharing ideas and co-operating with other group members.
- Children will be encouraged to develop an awareness of musical traditions and developments from different time periods and cultures.
- Children will explore sounds and music, carrying out investigation, exploration, invention, practice and selection, on both traditional percussion instruments and using ICT software.
- Links between music and other subjects will be made whenever possible.
- Opportunities for children to further develop group and individual performing skills, both vocal and instrumental will be provided.

- Children will perform to their class, in assemblies/events, plays and concerts throughout the year.
- Musical activities and action songs will be used to help improve co-ordination and physical control.
- A life-long love of music will be encouraged in all children as they learn about the social, entertainment and recreation opportunities offered by involvement in music.

Planning

- Appropriate planning will be made for children with special needs, including tasks with open-ended outcomes to allow for more able or gifted and talented children wherever possible.
- Differentiated experiences in relation to age and/or ability will be fundamental to planning.
- Records will be kept where appropriate for purposes of planning, assessing and developing common standards and progression within classes and the school as a whole.

Level Descriptors/Assessment/Target Setting

Children will be assessed by the music teacher as part of each child's annual reports according to the level descriptions in the QCA National Curriculum. Targets will be set for classes or individual children as appropriate after discussion between the class teacher and the specialist music teacher.

Monitoring

At present, the music co-ordinator teaches music to all classes, maintaining standards throughout the school.

Reporting

After receiving the annual school reports in the Spring term parents are given the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at parental consultations. Children who have instrumental tuition receive a separate report written by their specialist instrumental teacher.

Resources

School resources include 2 pianos, keyboard, CD players, ICT software, music stands and many assorted tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

Extra-curricular activities/Events

- "Wider Opportunities" recorder lessons are given in year 3.
- Instrumental tuition is optional from year 4 onwards in flute, violin and clarinet.
- Hymn practice is held once a week, during which the children practice hymns and songs to perform in masses and assemblies.
- The school orchestra rehearses weekly before school and performs in school assemblies, concerts and in the annual County music festival.
- Each year the Nursery and Reception classes perform a nativity play with singing.
- All junior and infant classes prepare a Production for performance to school, parents and friends during the course of the year.
- The children frequently form a special choir for celebrations in masses, school events and in church.
- A specially selected choir for years 4, 5 and 6 rehearses for performances throughout the year.
- The annual school trip to the theatre inspires children to want to improve their musical performances and to make the most of their talents in singing dancing and drama.
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Review

This policy should be viewed as a working document. An annual review will take place to ensure that all children gain the maximum benefit from their musical education at St. Joseph's.

Kirsty Gunn (Music co-ordinator)

Last updated: September 2009

Review date: September 2010