

Castleside Primary School



Music Policy

A.Barrass - Music Lead

September 2020

At Castleside Primary School, music is considered an essential part of a balanced curriculum. We ensure that children receive a broad and progressive musical education throughout their time at school, based on the National Curriculum and Durham Music progression of skills.

What is Music?

Music is concerned with the creative, aesthetic, emotional and spiritual response to organised sound. It is something in which all children can participate with enjoyment and gain a sense of accomplishment, irrespective of ability levels. Whilst being enjoyable, it also requires great powers of self-discipline, an ability to co-operate with others and deepens skills in concentration and reflection. It brings with it a real sense of achievement, developing self-confidence and feelings of belonging as well as deepening personal experience.

Aims and Objectives

We know that music has a positive effect on child development - academically, physically, spiritually and emotionally. Therefore, at Castleside Primary School, children are provided with as many musical opportunities as possible in order to:

- build self-esteem, self-confidence and self-discipline
- develop social skills of co-operation and sharing
- develop a sensitive awareness of sound and a desire to experiment with this
- develop concentration, memory and listening skills
- understand and use musical vocabulary
- develop physical co-ordination and motor skills
- deepen their self-awareness, sensitivity and imagination
- express their thoughts and feelings through music
- gain a better understanding of the history of music and great composers through time
- listen and respond to a wide range of music of different styles and discuss preferences
- learn how to read and write music using staff notation
- use ICT to record and develop creativity in composing and performing

Entitlement

Throughout the school, music teaching ensures that applying knowledge and understanding are developed through the interrelated skills of listening, performing, composing and appraising:

- Controlling sounds through singing and playing - performing skills
- Creating and developing musical ideas - composing skills
- Responding and reviewing - listening and appraising skills
- Pupils are also given opportunities to use ICT to enhance their creativity in composing and in capturing a performance

In particular, by making and responding to a wide range of music, children are able to understand:

- how sounds are made, changed and organised, using the elements and structures of music
- how music is produced and recorded, through the use of instrumentation, symbols and notation
- how musical style develops and is influenced by time, place, venue, occasion and purpose

Key Stage 1

Our children are taught to:

- Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- Play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music
- Begin to understand staff notation and other methods of music notation

Key Stage 2

Our children are taught to:

- Play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- Use and understand staff and other musical notations
- Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different cultures and traditions and from great male and female composers and musicians
- Develop an understanding of the history of music

Opportunities

Singing plays a central role at Castleside Primary School within daily lessons across the curriculum, assemblies and performances. Our school choir rehearse regularly and showcase their talents both within school, the local and wider area. Each year we take part in The Big Sing at The Sage in Gateshead and invite professional musicians into school to work with the children. These have included didgeridoo and djembe drumming workshops as well as visits to see professional orchestras and ballet performances. Our teaching staff have a real desire to

share their own experiences and love of music with the children, both within the classroom and alongside the pupils in school performances.

We aim to give all children the opportunities to engage in and enjoy practical music-making, both as an individual and as a member of an ensemble. Music is an art form that can be enjoyed and developed over the course of a lifetime and we aim to equip our children with the initial building blocks and inspiration necessary for life-long musical enjoyment.

Resources

We keep resources and musical instruments in a central store, labelled appropriately and accessible to all. The school library has a good supply of music topic books and we also have resources for choir and recorder teaching. Our subscription to Sing-Up provides an online bank of singing resources for all ages and topics, to aid cross-curricular learning.

Monitoring and review

The music subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and progress in music. S/he is also responsible for supporting and liaising with colleagues regarding the teaching of music. S/he is accountable for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction in school. Ongoing CPD is undertaken throughout the school year through training courses and network meetings.

Assessment

We assess children's progress and attainment in music by making informal assessments and regular record-keeping as we make observations during lessons and musical opportunities throughout school. Individual attainment is recorded on Target Tracker.

At the end of the academic year, an annual report is sent to parents as a summary of each child's progress, participation and achievement in music.

