

St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

Music Policy

Introduction

Music is a unique mode of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and it can play a fundamental part in the personal development of pupils.

Music reflects different cultures and societies, so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world that they live in.

Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly challenging and demanding subject. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, whilst encouraging them to appreciate (and form opinions about) a variety of musical styles and genres.

Aims

Our aims at St Lawrence are to:

- enable our pupils to enjoy a diverse music curriculum, which is in line with the 2014 National Curriculum
- give pupils an opportunity to develop skills and strengths from a range of musical styles and instruments, including voice
- help children to recognise pulse and pitch
- to understand musical notation and to compose pieces
- develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions
- provide our pupils with the opportunity to work individually and in co-operation with others
- broaden our pupils' cultural and spiritual awareness through music
- enhance our students' self-confidence in their own and each others' musical abilities

Teaching and Learning

Music

Using the Music Express scheme of learning our Music curriculum is designed to progressively develop children skills in the areas of musical appreciation (listening and discussing), performance on instruments and with voice, composition and recording and evaluating musical performances. We encourage children to focus on the work of great musicians for inspiration and exploration, and to build up a repertoire of techniques and approaches that they can apply in their own

compositions. Links are made with our English, Science and History topics which support the children's understanding in these areas as well. Music Express is linked to key National Curriculum objectives and lessons last between 45 minutes to an hour. Lessons take place in the classroom or studio depending on the amount of space needed, but may occasionally take place in outside (particularly if movement work is needed).

Each Year 5 class has a terms worth of Flute lessons provided by Surrey Arts. These lessons continue to support and embed the learning of a range of musical skills and understanding. Children have the opportunity to take the instruments home during their term of study and may also continue with flute lessons through the Surrey Arts program afterwards, should they wish.

At St Lawrence we are aware that singing lies at the heart of good music practice. As a result, in addition to weekly music lessons, pupils sing on a weekly basis, during assembly time. The teaching of hymns forms an integral part of school life, exposing children to pertinent Christian themes.

Differentiation

We recognise that in all classes, children have a wide range of musical ability and so we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty
- grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group
- providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child
- supporting children through teacher modelling and focused guidance

Additional music teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to join free clubs such as Worship band, choir. Members of these clubs meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, with teachers, and work on a selection of different songs. Throughout the year, children are given the opportunity to showcase what they have learnt, either to the school or to the local community. Once a year, choir members sing at the Surrey Music Festival, which celebrates the talent of children from a selection of different schools. They also perform at a variety of other local events and to a range of audiences.

In addition, children can study a musical instrument with peripatetic (LA) teachers. Parents who wish their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These

lessons are normally taught to small groups of children (during school time) who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the guitar, trumpet, piano, flute or saxophone.

Cross Curricular Links

Throughout the year music acts as a stimulus for other types of work, for example, creative writing, art, drama and dance. It is also an essential part of school worship. Thematic weeks such as Arts Week and Book Week particularly make use of musical soundtracks to enhance pupils' exposure and appreciation of musical performances and their ability to link to areas such as literacy, art and geography.

Assessment

The children's progress is continually monitored by the class teacher, through their success in acquiring new skills and applying these to their compositions and performances. At the end of each half term the teacher assesses against the skills and understanding outlined in each unit and an overall best fit is given as to whether pupils are working below, within or above the age related expectations for that unit. This is recorded on target tracker.

Resources

A large selection of tuned and untuned instruments are in the music cupboard. 'Virtual piano' also available on the iPads and recording and playback programs are available on both the laptops and iPads. A selection of CDs is kept in the hall and can also be accessed via the Staff Shared folder on the school server. Each classroom can play music and through its computer and sound system and a variety of lesson resources are visually presented to the children on the interactive whiteboard.

Last review date: December 2018

Next review date: December 2021