

St James the Great Catholic Primary School

Music Policy

Mission Statement:

St James the Great is a Catholic Primary School. In partnership with the home and Parish, we aim to develop and strengthen the faith of each individual by living according to Christian values. We aim to educate our children to enable them to reach their full potential spiritually, academically and socially in order that their lives are brought to fulfilment in God.

Aims and Objectives.

Music is an integral part of everyday life. At St James the Great Primary school we believe it is important to provide an active music programme. The aims of our music curriculum are:

- To encourage children to sign with enjoyment and enthusiasm from an early age, free from inhibition.
- To help children make sense of sounds and music by their own investigation, exploring, experimenting, inventing, practising and selecting.
- To use simple technical training to develop performing skills, both vocal and instrumental.
- To cultivate listening skills.
- To carry out group activities in a harmonious manner, co-operating, tolerating, communicating, sharing ideas and building self-confidence.
- To develop a route through music into the emotions, to touch upon feelings which cannot easily be verbalised.
- To develop a basic understanding of musical notation.
- To develop an awareness of musical traditions and developments at different times and in a variety of cultures.
- AND ABOVE ALL to instil a life-long love of music which will equip individuals to make choices, to discriminate, to recognise that music offers entertainment and recreation, social activity and a source of pleasure and of solace at different times.

How We Achieve These Aims and Objectives

In order to promote quality learning, carefully structured vocal and instrumental work develops performing skills and leads to differentiated creative work in the form of improvisation and composition. This is reinforced by selective listening drawn from several source and covering a wide variety of music.

Planning

The principal categories of the National Curriculum are taught to each year group, that is Performing and Composition, Listening and Appraising and linked to pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.

Specialised musical language is used and emphasis is placed on clear diction and articulation where appropriate. Continuity and progression, as identified in the National Curriculum programmes of study for Key Stages 1 and 2 are at the centre of both long and short term schemes of work.

Equal Opportunities

Each child has the opportunity to perform on a range of instruments on a regular basis and any child with a hearing or sight deficiency or any other disability will have their needs catered for by the allocation of an appropriate instrument and task.

Cross-Curricular Themes

Musical activities are linked to other subjects where appropriate. Class topics for each class are checked and referred to.

Assessment

Children's progress and attainment is monitored in the form of:

- Observation in performance
- Samples of work
- Taped evidence
- Close observation in class.

Resources

A specialist music teacher teaches each junior class for half an hour each week in the practical aspects of the music curriculum. The nursery and reception classes share a half hour lesson as do Year 1 and 2. The afternoon nursery have a half hour session. A group of children from Year 4 and Year 2 have recorder lessons. There are after school group piano lessons and there is a weekly hymn practice session.

Resources include:

- Three pianofortes
- Electric Keyboard
- Various Xylophones and Glockenspiels
- A red chest of 25 unhitched percussion instruments.
- Recorders available for children to buy
- School guitar
- Source books for music (see attached list)
- Music programs on classroom computers (various)
- Tapes of pre-recorded music (see attached list)

Other Extra-Curricular Activities

- Each year the children of Year 5 and 6 take part in a 'Children in Need Hymnathon' organised by the BBC as part of the Children in Need events (Autumn Term)
- Each year, a group of children selected from Year 6 participates in the 'Concerts for Children' organised by the Ernest Read Concert Association in the South Bank Centre (time allocated by the organisers where available (October- May))
- Each year, Year 6 go to the royal Festival Hall to play Indonesian Gamelan instruments in a two hour workshop with hands -on practical experience.
- Each year Year 6 regularly perform a musical working on the musical aspects in their class music lessons and improvising the acting, designing the scenery and costumes with their class teacher.
- Each year, the reception class and Key Stage 1 perform a Nativity play with singing. Years 3 and 4 hold a Carol Service in the school once a year.
- Our links with the church mean that children frequently form a special choir for celebrations in the church