

Music Policy 2022

'With God all things are possible'.
(Matthew 19.26)

St Thomas' Church of England Primary School

OUR VISION

'The Little School with a Big Heart'

We pride ourselves on being a school where children are nurtured by a team of dedicated staff to enable them to thrive and reach their potential - whatever that might be.

Through our Christian faith, we aim to ensure that children leave our school with the ability to be well rounded, tolerant and caring young people. We encourage our children to embrace diversity within the community and to be responsible and independent learners.

Mission Statement

Our mission statement underpins all aspects of the school's work, informs school development and shapes the school environment and our curriculum. It is firmly based upon on the belief that, *'With God all things are possible'.* (Matthew 19.26)

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Nurture

We care for, support and protect our children whilst they are growing and learning with us and encourage them to do the same for each other and the wider community. We recognise that music is a powerful and unique form of communication that can change the way pupils learn, feel, think and act. It gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual.

‘My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.’
(Psalm 57:7)

Inspire

We inspire each child to become a confident, inquiring citizen with an enthusiasm and desire to learn and explore. We value and promote music as it reflects today’s culture, society, and the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world in which they live

Achieve

We develop each child to be capable of achieving in life, to develop academically and socially, and to succeed in school and beyond. We provide opportunities for children to listen, create, play, perform and enjoy music, whilst developing their musical skills in order to support them to achieve their full potential.

THE TEACHING OF MUSIC

Planning

At St Thomas’ CE Primary School, Music teaching follows the requirements of the National Curriculum. We use the Charanga Musical School scheme of work, which ensures the progressive development of musical concepts from early years through to the end of Key stage 2. St Thomas’ class teachers teach the curriculum lessons.

We have good links with Rochdale Music Service and the music staff take the whole class instrumental lessons take place on both the ukulele and brass. Ukulele lessons take place during the Autumn Term in Emerald Class and during the Spring Term in Ruby Class. Brass takes place in Opal Class in the Spring Term and then in Sapphire Class during the Summer Term. Staff from the Music Service also take individual lessons on Ukulele, keyboard, woodwind, string and guitar.

Each music unit of work taught provides the opportunity for children to learn and use musical vocabulary, covering the Interrelated Dimensions of Music. During each

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lesson, children are given opportunities to cover the main areas of the music curriculum: musicianship (understanding music), listening (response and analysing), singing, notation, playing instruments, creating (improvising and composing) and performing. Teachers follow the lesson plans provided by Charanga and adapt them where necessary to suit the needs of the children in their class.

Lesson Structure

Each year group follows a similar structure when delivering music lessons. The lesson structure ensures the aims of the National Curriculum are being covered. Every 30-45-minute lesson follows the 3-step structure of:

- Listening and appraising (5 minutes),
- Musical activities (warm up games, singing, playing instruments, improvisation (different levelled challenges) and composition – 25 minutes),
- Performing and Evaluation (15 minutes). The timings can be adapted to suit the needs of the children but teachers are to ensure all of the musical activities are taught.

Teachers make a professional judgement as to whether the musical expectations have been achieved by each child) and they complete assessment objectives based on the National Curriculum on FFS Aspire which shows where children are in terms of their learning. Children are assessed as either; working below the expected standard, at the expected standard or at greater depth within the expected standard. This assessment information is used to inform planning so that gaps and next steps can be addressed. In order to ensure that assessment information is meaningful and accurate, the subject leader monitors the music video evidence alongside the music assessment grids for each class. Pupil conferencing is carried out by the subject leader to provide a deeper understanding of children's musical skills and learning for each year group within school.

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Christian Values

‘Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.’ (Psalm 96.1)

Worship is a daily part of life at St Thomas’ where hymns and songs are used to enhance Christian values, messages and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The school comes together fortnightly for the children to have singing assemblies where they learn hymns and religious songs to praise, thank God and to use for prayer. They also match into the services which take place in Church. Performance opportunities are given at different stages of the church calendar such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and the Leaver’s Service at the end of the Year.

‘Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!’ (Psalm 98.4)

Resources

School is resourced to support the teaching of music. More glockenspiels have been purchased for September 2022 to enable every child in the class to use one during the Charanga Music lessons. The School stores the musical instruments in the cupboard at the back of the hall. Rochdale Music Service provide the instruments for whole class, individual and small group lessons. The only instrument this is not done for is for the keyboard lessons. Keyboards are used in school for the lessons. Charanga provides online resources for music lessons (www.charangamusicworld.co.uk). Every teacher has a username and password in order to access Charanga.

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Wider Opportunities of Musical Experiences and Performances

Other than the whole class music lessons we have a choir which takes place every Monday after school by a member of Rochdale Music service. The choir are given Opportunity to sing in the church services, Rochdale Music Festival and next year we will be taking part in Young Voices.

‘Sing to him a new song; play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.’ (Psalm 33.3)

When each class have completed the term of lessons, an assembly takes place where parents and family of that class are invited into school to listen to the performance. Emerald class also take part in Rochdale Music Festival on the Ukulele.

Some children who have individual and small group lessons also take part in the Rochdale Music Festival. Children are chosen to do this from the professional judgement of the Rochdale Music teaching staff with the music coordinator.

At the end of the and one of the school year we also hold an Evening Music Extravaganza in school. All children who learn instruments in school, outside of school or enjoy playing an instrument are invited to perform at the Extravaganza. This includes voice.

‘But now bring me a musician.’ And when the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon him.’ (2 Kings 3:15)

At Christmas, Amethyst, Ruby, Opal and Emerald Classes all do a Christmas performance Play which involves not only acting but learning many musical numbers. Sapphire class do an end of year production which also involves many songs to learn and sing along to.

Class also use songs and music in helping to learn in other areas of the curriculum. One example of this is in phonics where we follow the Song of Sounds. For each stage a song is learnt with actions and images to help children to learn the phonics sounds and graphemes.

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'Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young.' (Aristotle)

'Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything... Without music, life would be an error.' (Plato)

'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.' (Plato)