



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSIC POLICY

Rationale

Music is an integral part of our culture, both past and present, and is a unique form of communication. It enables self-expression, develops listening skills and creativity. It also helps children to feel part of their community. At Westgate, we provide opportunities for all children to compose and perform music and to develop the skills needed to appreciate a wide variety of musical styles.

Aims

Through our music teaching, we enable children to:

- Identify how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures through practical activities such as composition and singing
- Experience and experiment with a variety of instruments including a whole class instrumental programme in Year 4 (ukulele)
- Recognise and create pulse, rhythm and pitch in music
- Compose music and lyrics and know how to notate these ideas in different ways (including staff notation)
- Work with others to create and perform music
- Appreciate different musical styles and to make judgements on what they hear or compose

Planning

We use our own scheme of work for music, primarily based on the principles of music educators Carl Orff and Zoltan Kodaly. Music is integrated with language and movement and there is a great emphasis on using tuned and untuned percussion to explore, improvise, compose and perform. Singing material is child-centred, starting with a limited range of notes, with concepts reinforced through games and rhymes.

There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit. The planned progression in the scheme means that children are increasingly challenged as they move through school. Children in Y4 have the opportunity to learn to play the ukulele as a whole class.

Music is planned in three phases (long, medium and short-term.) The long-term plans map the music topics studied in each half term. The medium-term outlines key skills progression in Pulse/Rhythm, Pitch, Composition, Listening and Appraising, and Notation. Short-term plans give detailed structure to individual lessons. Through this programme of study, we teach the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). Links are made to class topics when appropriate and beneficial.

The music specialist is responsible for planning and delivering the music curriculum from Y2-Y6. In Y1 and the Foundation Stage, music is planned and taught by the class teachers.

Curriculum Content

In Key Stage 1 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 interrelated dimensions of music

In Key Stage 2 children are taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

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 interrelated 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 traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music

Resources

There are sufficient resources for all music teaching units in the school. Foundation Stage also have their own resources stored in the unit and in the outside shed. Y1 have access to a music trolley with instruments specifically for smaller hands. Y2-Y6 have their music lessons in the mezzanine which has untuned percussion, tuned percussion and ukuleles.

Cross-curricular links

Music has cross curricular links to many different subjects. The following ones are especially important.

Computing

Computing is used in music where appropriate. From September 2021, children in Year 2 will develop compose using 2Sequence on Purple Mash. Children in Year 4 will develop melodies using Chrome Music Lab and children in Year 6 will be introduced to Garageband.

In practical lessons, children's compositions are recorded digitally wherever possible in order to evaluate performances.

PSHE and Citizenship

Through shared music making, children learn to work effectively with other people and to build up good relationships. It is an important vehicle for raising self confidence. The opportunity to perform in musical performances is a memorable event for all children.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Through experiencing and understanding music from many cultures, children learn to develop positive attitudes towards others. They learn how music reflects how people think and feel in different societies. Songs taught in assemblies focus on spiritual, moral, social and cultural themes.

Assessment

Children are assessed in music through on-going judgements and observations during lessons. These are summarised in class records which show children working at, above or below expected levels for their age group. Progress in music is reported annually to parents.

Role of Subject Leader

Monitoring of standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in music is the responsibility of the music subject leader at Westgate. The subject leader also provides direction in the teaching of music and keeps abreast of current developments in music teaching.

Inclusion, SEN & Equal Opportunities

At Westgate, we provide music education to all children whatever their ability. Additional support and differentiated activities will be given to children with learning difficulties. More able children are identified and then challenged by the extension of musical tasks. Children who learn orchestral instruments or piano/guitar are given opportunities to use these with class lessons.

Additional Music Teaching

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with external peripatetic teachers. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the lesson fees on a termly basis. A bursary is available through Leeds Music Education Partnership for pupils who are eligible for free school meals. In addition, recorder club, a choir and a school orchestra are run by staff members.

Musical Events

At Westgate, we aim to include as many children as possible in musical activities. In addition to the extra musical opportunities already detailed, every class takes part in musical events and performances each year such as Harvest Festival and Christmas productions. Year 6 perform an end of year show.

Links with local musicians and groups have been developed over recent years to enable all children to experience a wide range of live/streamed musical performances/projects. These include Otley Chamber Orchestra, Otley handbells group, Leeds Lieder, PHGS, Maia Folk Group, Back Chat Brass and professional musicians within our parent community.

For children having peripatetic lessons, the choir and orchestra perform in assemblies and are showcased in an annual concert. Children also take part in local and city wide concerts with the Chevin Music Partnership and the Leeds Schools' Music Association. Opportunities for children to perform in a range of local venues are taken whenever possible.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring is carried out by the subject leader for Music and by the senior leadership team, in the following ways:

- Informal discussion with staff and pupils
- Scrutiny of medium term planning
- Observation of Music displays
- Observing musical performances
- Classroom observation

Information gathered through monitoring activities is used to inform subject leader action planning, and the School Improvement Plan, as appropriate.

This policy was agreed in May 2021, and is subject to review every three years.

Signed: (On behalf of the governing body)

Signed: (Head teacher)

Date: 04/05/2021