

# Music @ St Edward's Catholic Primary School



## Curriculum Intent

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

National Curriculum, 2014

At St Edward's we believe that music is a unique way of communicating which can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and it can play an important part in personal development. Music reflects the culture of the society in which we live, and so the teaching and learning of music can enhance children's understanding of the world in which we live. Music plays an important part in helping children feel part of our wider community as well as part of our Church community; we include music in much of our worship. Our curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all children to hear, enjoy, sing, play, create, perform and enjoy music.

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

## Curriculum Implementation

As musicians, we want our children to develop:

- A musical understanding underpinned by high levels of aural perception, internalisation and knowledge of music, including high or rapidly developing levels of technical expertise.
- Very good awareness and appreciation of different musical traditions and genres.
- The ability to give precise written and verbal explanations, using musical terminology effectively, accurately and appropriately.
- A passion for and commitment to a diverse range of musical activities.

The teaching and implementation of the Music Curriculum is taught at St Edward's through 'Charanga Musical School', which enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. Within music and through the use of 'Charanga Musical School', over time, the children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts as they move along the spiral learning curve. In order for pupils to gain conceptual understanding of their musical learning and to provide evidence of this, a repetition-based approach and a more secure, deeper teaching and learning assessment system is implemented. Links to other areas of learning and subjects through our Creative Curriculum, are made where possible.

The Music Curriculum at St Edward's is further enhanced through specialist teaching, provided by Tees Valley Music Service – our local music hub. The children in Key Stage 2 have taster sessions in African drumming in Y3/4 and Y6. The Y5 children follow a five week Taiko course each year. The Reception and Y2 children also receive 'Snappy Classroom' sessions. The TVMS programme means that by the time a St Edward's pupil leaves Y6, they have had six opportunities to take part in specialist music teacher sessions. Pupils in KS2 are also invited to learn the violin or cello, taught by the peripatetic music teachers from TVMS, who come into school weekly.

Singing is also a very important music skill taught at St Edward's. As well as being an integral element of 'Charanga Musical School', St Edward's also has a KS2 choir. KS2 pupils also participate in weekly Liturgical music sessions. The KS2 choir is often involved with worship in church, and has had significant success over the years in various choir competitions. The choir is involved in the wider community also, such as singing Christmas music at the local Nursing Home.

## Curriculum Impact

Music is assessed and developed through the use of Foundation Subject Formative Assessment. This ensures progression throughout Key Stage 1 & 2. Early Years Foundation Stage pupils are assessed within Expressive Arts and Design and their progress is tracked termly.

The formative assessment system sets out **steps** so that pupils reach or exceed the end of key stage expectations; judges whether pupils are on **track** to meet end of key stage expectations; pinpoints aspects of the curriculum where pupils are **falling behind** and **recognises exceptional performance**. It supports **planning** and **teaching** for all pupils, **reports to parents** and, where pupils move to other schools, provides clear information about each pupil's strengths, weaknesses and progress.

The impact of the music curriculum is monitored through evidence in context books and displays, as well as the formative assessments. Our overarching aim is that we enrich children with a Music Curriculum that excites, motivates and promotes creativity for all of our pupils.

