

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms.

1.2 The aims of music at our school are consistent with the National Curriculum (2016). They are 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 inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

2 Teaching and learning.

2.1 At St Francis School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs with a music specialist, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music.

Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds.

Key stage 1 and Early Years pupils are being 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 inter-related dimensions of music.

In Reception classes pupils are encouraged to experiment with music using their voices, instruments and through movement and dance.

Key stage 2 pupils are being taught to:

- sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control.
- develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.
- 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 inter-related 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.

3 Additional music teaching.

3.1 Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is provided by West Sussex Music, Love Music School and other visiting teachers. Children from years 2 – 6 wishing to learn a musical instrument can apply for individual or group lessons to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the guitar (classical, electric or bass), keyboard, piano, drums, saxophone, flute or singing.

4 Music curriculum planning and assessment.

4.1 All children in our school receive weekly music lessons with a specialist teacher. Our curriculum, which follows the guidelines of the National Curriculum, aims to give children the opportunity to develop performance, composition and listening skills through exploring a variety of musical styles, traditions and genres and by taking part in a wide range of activities.

4.2 The medium-term plans and weekly plans, written by a music specialist, give details of each unit of work for each half term in each year group and are linked with their current topic.

4.3 Assessment is used to inform planning and to facilitate differentiation. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and that progress is being made. Feedback is given to the children.

5. Roles and Responsibilities.

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in music is the responsibility of the music specialist.

Staff will risk assess and pay close attention to risks where equipment being used could cause potential harm ie glue guns, saws, matches, cooking, falling from height. Protocols and procedures will be put in place to ensure children minimum risk.

6. Resources.

The music co-ordinator is responsible for maintaining music resources; there is a range of age appropriate resources to support the teaching and learning of music.

7. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Listening, creating or performing music can sometimes be a moving and even spiritual experience. We encourage children to reflect on the important effect that music has on people's moods and senses. Children at St Francis of Assisi school have the opportunity to encounter music from many cultures and, through their growing knowledge and understanding of the music, they develop more positive attitudes towards other cultures and societies. We regularly celebrate Catholic faith with hymns in school and class liturgies, Masses and assemblies which bring us together through the Gospel values and celebrates our sense of belonging.

10 The school choirs and musical events.

10.1 We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We hold a KS2 Christmas Carol Service and a KS1 and Early Years Nativity in the Autumn term. In the Spring term Years 3 and 4 perform an Easter production. All the children in years 5 and 6 are involved in an end of the year production.

10.2 Singing opportunities at St Francis of Assisi:

Our KS1 choir is open to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The children give up their lunch breaks to rehearse once, sometimes twice a week. The choir was started in 2013 with a view to give children the opportunity to learn a variety of songs and perform at various music festivals and community events, from the very beginning of their school life.

We have a very successful KS2 choir at St Francis. It is open to invited students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We sing regularly at school events and special occasions in the community. We also compete in music festivals.

All children in KS2 are welcome to join a singing club where there are no auditions, all that is required is a love for singing and dedication.

All of the above are led by a music specialist.