

St Margaret's Vision For Music

Our Intent

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At St Margaret's we believe that music in all its forms plays an important role in developing children: emotionally, physically and socially. It supports and helps their wellbeing by triggering the release of feel good chemicals and can actually create more positive attitudes and can lift an individual's mood. Music can also support long and short-term memory through remembering lyrics, pitch and rhythm which in turn, can be a tool to aid us to remember any subject efficiently. In fact, music whether listening to it or participating in it is something which is developed throughout a person's lifetime and therefore it is vital that our children experience music in all its forms throughout their school life so that the benefits and enjoyment of it can be experienced. Therefore, we value music as a subject and realise its potential in future building blocks.

How we implement Music

Music skills and knowledge are taught across school from Early Years to Year 6. We use a scheme called Charanga which includes many examples of music styles and genres from different times and places. These are explored through the language of music via active listening, performing and composing activities, which enable understanding of the context and genre. Charanga provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning.

Pupils learn about different styles and genres of music and have opportunities to sing, compose and play tuned and untuned instruments.

Some pupils have weekly instrumental lessons in school delivered by peripatetic staff. Pupils have the opportunity to take music exams and be part of Sandwell Bands. Towards the end of the academic year we have a music concert where pupils perform for family and friends.

They also learn about the different families of instruments and use their listening skills to identify the sounds of strings, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

In our worship/assembly sessions we focus on a particular composer over a two-week period and therefore pupils are able to develop their knowledge of composers and their compositions. In fact, pupils frequently recognise the name of composer just by listening to the introduction of a piece of music. All KS2 pupils sing at our special church services.

Whenever possible we strive to give our pupils the opportunities to hear live music and visit music auditoriums such as Symphony Hall where the CBSO are based.

We have been singing The Three Little Birds by Bob Marley.
Music makes me feel happy.
I like projecting my voice.

Impact

Children are able to enjoy music, in as many ways as they choose- either as listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse.
Music is monitored using a variety of strategies such as, lesson observations, staff discussions and pupil interviews.

Feedback is given to teachers and leaders use the information to see if the children know more and remember more.

Events and Learning Opportunities

All Key Stage 2 pupils perform as a choir in Easter and Christmas Services

All children learn and perform songs for Christmas/Summer productions

Children volunteer to perform in worship and other assemblies

Children have the opportunity to learn a range of instruments including flute, clarinet, violin, cello, trumpet, trombone in small group sessions.

Many instrumentalists have the opportunity to join a variety of Sandwell and/or Orchestras and perform in special concerts.

Children have opportunities to be part of singing groups within the Lichfield Diocese.

We also encourage pupils who learn instruments outside of school to perform in our special assemblies.

I like playing the cello because the bow makes a really nice sound on the strings.
I like singing I the Lord of Sea and Sky.

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