

Knavesmire Primary School

Music Policy

April 2023

Music at Knavesmire

At Knavesmire Primary School we celebrate the opportunities that each child accesses through quality of our Music provision. Music is taught as a discrete subject by a music specialist for an hour each week to each class from Reception to Year 6. Music is also taught once a week in Nursery. Music is also used throughout the school for expression, communication and to celebrate.

Music Aims

- To give every child the opportunity to be a musician and to reach their full musical potential
- To expose pupils to a range of performances and encourage them in the role of an audience member
- To encourage self-expression, demonstration of choice and build self-esteem
- To provide authentic musical experiences within music lessons
- To build on links within the community to provide workshop and performance opportunities

Teaching and Learning

Every child in the school, from Nursery to Year 6, receives a weekly music lesson taught by a music specialist in their classroom. The music curriculum builds on the National Curriculum using elements of Kodaly, Dalcroze and Orff. The children are encouraged to listen, appraise, compose, improvise, perform, experience and create.

Planning

Long term planning in music allows children to explore different musical styles, eras of music history, approaches to composition and music from other cultures. The inter-related dimensions of music are understood on a deeper level as the child moves through the school.

In Early Years and KS1, pupils progress from experiencing a pulse through the movement of others and develop the skills to express the pulse through their own movement. At this stage the emphasis is on experiencing the inter-related dimensions through movement, sound, listening and voice with an emphasis on sound before sight. We do not name all of the dimensions until we approach the end of KS1, as we are still laying the foundations of understanding and experiencing. This approach increases the inclusivity of music lessons as all children can experience at their own level and with their own physical and communicative abilities. Children who are having individual instrumental lessons outside of the music classroom find that their musicianship develops through this deeper understanding of the dimensions.

In KS2 pupils begin to name and identify the inter-related dimensions of music. Pupils can now distinguish between pulse and rhythm and are beginning to identify and name other dimensions. From Year 3 pupils are introduced to musical notation. This allows children to communicate their musical ideas. By the end of KS2 children will be able to read simple notation and will have spent a year learning the violin, in addition to their music lessons.

Assessment

Children's skills and understanding are regularly assessed to ensure progression in their learning. Assessment is mostly formative in music lessons and supports children's music making. Summative assessments take place at the end of each term and are recorded at the end of each school year. Information gained from assessments is used to inform future planning.

Inclusion

Every child in the school is included in school music lessons. Some children who need additional support are accompanied by a member of the support staff team.

The curriculum is designed so that individual children can access music making at their own level. The learning is also extended for pupils with a deeper depth of understanding and musicianship.

Enhancements

Curricular music provision is enhanced in many ways at Knavesmire school with a range of wider opportunities throughout the school year.

WCET

The school subscribes to the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition scheme, delivered by York Music Ed, which ensures that every child in the school has the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Every year our Year 4 classes learn to play the violin for a year with a visiting instrumental teacher.

Instrumental teachers.

Peripatetic instrumental teachers visit the school weekly. The children can choose from guitar, drums, keyboard, piano, flute, brass and voice. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding can apply for lessons and instrument hire funded by the York Music Hub.

MEG

Every year the Music Coordinator organises a programme of workshops with the Music Education Group at York University. Music students visit the school to run workshops with all year groups in various aspects of music education, for example samba drumming, gospel singing and kazoos and to perform in Collective Worship.

Rock Steady

Rock Steady tutors visit school on a weekly basis offering children instrumental lessons and enabling them to form their own rock bands. Performances for parents are held at the end of each term.

Concerts and Performances.

The Music department provides a range of opportunities for children to perform throughout the year. The whole school performs every year in a Christmas concert at St Chad's church. Individual children and groups are also encouraged to perform in Collective Worship. Performances are also organised for visiting musicians and external music groups.

SBMAT Arts Festival

Every year, Year 5 perform at the South Bank Multi Academy Trust's annual Arts Festival at the Barbican. The children perform a dance, song and instrumental piece that they prepare in their lessons.

Extra-curricular clubs

Choirs

In Autumn term there is a choir for KS1 with a playground concert in December.

KS2 choir takes place after school in Autumn and Spring terms. Children can attend the Young Voices concert in Spring term at Sheffield Arena. There is also a choir concert in school at the end of the Spring term. In December 2024 the choir have been invited to perform at the York Community Carol Concert at the Barbican.

Instrumental Groups

Lunchtime clubs are also run throughout the year in djembe drumming, samba drumming, recorders, music technology and steel pans.

Projects

The school regularly takes part in one-off projects, both organised internally and offered by outside agencies.

Recently these have included:

Early Music Project

An 8 composition singing project organised by York Music Ed, culminating in a performance at Millthorpe School.

Knavesmire's Got Talent Showcase

A whole school talent showcase and show, open to every child in school.

Resources

The school is extremely well resourced for music and has a separate music room. Resources include a wide selection of tuned, untuned and multicultural instruments, steel pans, piano, keyboards, samba drums and a class set of violins, ukeleles and djembes.