



Parkside Community Primary School

MUSIC POLICY

Purpose of Study

At Parkside Community Primary School, we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop skills and appreciate a wide variety of musical forms. We embrace the National Curriculum purpose of study which states:

“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 pupil’s 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

Aims

- To develop pupil’s skills, knowledge and understanding in performing, composing, listening and appraising.
- To develop pupils’ understanding of how music can take a variety of forms and that music can reflect other cultures, times and places.
- To develop pupil’s independence, self-esteem, motivation and empathy with others and the ability to work, share and experience together.
- To enable children to have the opportunity to explore a range of sounds and instruments.
- To provide pupils with opportunities to experience live music in a variety of forms and from a variety of cultures.

Objectives

- To 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
- To 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
- To 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.

Planning, Teaching and Learning

At Parkside Community Primary School we have recently adopted the ‘Sing-up’ scheme of work for music as the basis for our curriculum planning. The ‘Sing-up’ scheme builds upon prior learning.

While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

The 'Sing-up' scheme of work links quite closely to the Early Learning goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the objectives in the 2014 National Curriculum. However, teachers also have access to other ideas and resources and are expected to adapt any published materials used to meet the needs of their pupils. We also encourage cross-curricular links, ensuring music is taught as a holistic part of the curriculum where possible.

Children are given the opportunity to discover, explore and develop technical skills through practical music lessons. Forty-five minute music lessons are timetabled for each class on a weekly basis. This involves both whole class and small group activities whereby emphasis is placed upon making music an enjoyable learning experience through practical involvement by all pupils.

Children are taught to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces. They are also taught to sing and play in time controlling the sound and pace. They are taught different ways to represent sounds graphically and symbolically.

Children are also given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the styles, genres, history and traditions of music through a creative thematic approach. Pupils' understanding of music will be developed through activities which bring together the requirements of performing, composing, listening and appraising.

One of the main methods employed to help children to access and engage with music in school is singing. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing expressively, in tune and with other people. This is achieved through weekly singing assemblies and a choir for pupils.

Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music from various backgrounds and cultures. Assembly songs are also linked to various annual celebrations and festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, spring and Easter.

Kent School of Music also contribute to the teaching of music across some year groups, through weekly ukulele lessons

To aid the teaching and learning of music at Parkside Community Primary School the following musical resources are available:

- Interactive whiteboards and computers.
- Keyboards
- Music toolkit software
- Tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments
- A range of musical resources on CD which includes classical, popular and cultural music
- Various music books including 'Sing Up' resource

Assessment and Recording

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons relating to the lesson objectives and the list of skills from the, both of which are based on national curriculum target levels for music.

Video recordings are made of live musical performances for the children to use as self-assessment. Other sound based methods are also employed to capture children's performances. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher will assess the work and give oral or written feedback. Older and more able pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work.

Assessment is used as a tool for helping children to make future progress. Individual class teachers and the Music Subject leader keep samples of children's work, in written, recorded or photographic forms. These demonstrate levels of achievement.

Policy adopted by Governing Body on _____ March 2024 _____

To be reviewed on _____ March 2027 _____

Signed by Headteacher _____

Signed by Chair of Governors _____