

At St Monica's we aim to cultivate an excitement and interest in music, alongside the knowledge, understanding and skills to explore it further. 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.

We follow the [National Curriculum](#) guidance in Key Stages 1 and 2 and music is taught using the Charanga musical school scheme, which provides a vast library of songs supporting all the requirements of the National Curriculum. The interrelated dimensions of music (listening and appraising, differing musical activities and performing) are taught alongside each other through each unit to encourage the development of musical skills. The National Curriculum and the Charanga objectives have been broken down into objectives that must be taught and evidenced each term. By using the tool 'Classroom monitor', teachers are skilled in identifying the taught objectives for each term and making regular assessments against the taught objectives.

We teach Music to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks).
- Offering guidance and support from a TA or teacher.
- Providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child.

Listening to, 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, senses and quality of life. Children 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.

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with a specialised music teacher in Year 4. Peripatetic guitar lessons are also offered to children in Year 5 and Year 6 at a specified lunchtime. There is a strings ensemble offered to children in KS2. Peripatetic music teaching is organised by the Local Authority Music Hub. These lessons are normally taught to individuals and/or small groups of children who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the violin or flute. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, and usually takes place during a lunchtime session.

As well as teaching music through the Charanga scheme, we encourage children from both key stages to immerse themselves in the world of music. Children in KS2 are invited to join the Young Voices school choir, which meets weekly. The children sing at the MEN Arena with children from different schools and their parents have the opportunity to watch their children sing and perform. There is also a small group of children who sing at Mass and during school assemblies. The children in Year 4 took part in a 'Come and Play with the Halle' event at the Bridgewater Hall last year and KS1 performed in an Infant Music festival. A summer musical concert is held for parents each year when again the children are encouraged to show case their musical talents. Each year children in KS1 rehearse and perform the Nativity and children in KS2 take part in The Passion Play.