



Music Curriculum Statement

Share and love one another.

We teach the children to respect each other and to behave with consideration. We aim for an atmosphere in which the children feel safe and valued. Discussions and team games start by establishing the ground rules for respecting each other's contributions.

In Music, we aim to cultivate an excitement and interest 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.

Together work to be like Jesus.

The Catholic social teaching agenda, with its emphasis on justice and peace, guides our curriculum choices. Wherever relevant we relate what we teach to the influence of Gospel values. We encourage the children to imitate the resilience of Jesus in their learning behaviour. It is commonly said that music is a window into the soul and at St Monica's, music plays an integral part of our worship and prayer life.

St Monica's follows the detailed National Curriculum scheme of work written by Charanga Music School, and in Autumn 2021 began teaching from the Model Music Curriculum (published Summer 2021). Developing the children's musicianship skills is at the key to the teaching in class, and their work is always based around music they first listen to, then learn, improvise, compose and perform.

Make people smile.

At St Monica's, our main aim for the children when they leave is they have had opportunities to develop and nurture a love for music, and that they have many treasured memories of musical experiences. We are committed to providing opportunities for all children to develop their musicianship skills, and for all children to see themselves as musicians, with the capability to improve and progress in the subject. There is an emphasis on effort for the satisfaction of self-improvement. Moments of awe and wonder are sought and celebrated.

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 choir, which rehearses weekly in the Autumn term. 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 are also extra curricular opportunities like the recorder group and Junior Choir. A summer musical concert is held for parents each year when again the children are encouraged to showcase their musical talents. Each year children in KS1 rehearse and perform the Nativity and children in KS2 take part in The Passion Play.

Only teamwork can make dreams happen.

Our curriculum focuses on skills of collaborative living and provides opportunities to practice those skills in context. In sport, group work and play, we promote respect, patience and empathy. (There are even children with a practical expression of these values on their Behaviour Plans.)

In Music, 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 and 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.

Never stop trying.

In the way we work, we develop resilience, determination, self-confidence and an understanding of the need for hard work and practice. We do this by placing an emphasis on enquiring, questioning and solving problems.

In our Music lessons, 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.

Include everyone in all we do.

In our teaching we ask the children to look at others through a lens of fairness, equality, justice and the sort of tolerance that is born of knowledge and fellow feeling. We work to combat stereotypes: in the way we speak to children and in the way we teach them to look at others. Pupils are exposed to a wide range of music and appreciate and understand the freedom and emotion that is felt through listening to and performing music. All children are on their own individual journey but they should be confident in the knowledge that opportunities exist for them, no matter where their path begins. At St. Monica's we build children's Cultural Capital through the teaching of music lessons. 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.

Care for others around the world.

We want our children to develop knowledge and respect for other cultures, religions and peoples and for a sense of their responsibilities to flow from that knowledge and respect. We understand the importance that music plays in the wider community and in all cultural backgrounds, and are committed to ensuring children develop an awareness and appreciation of music around them and in throughout the world.

In Music, 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. St Monica's has a Long Term Plan for listening, which provides the children throughout the school with experience listening to a range of classical music from different musical periods, and music from different cultures and countries around the world. They learn about composers from different times, countries, genres and gender and become familiar with the progression of music through the ages. In the upper juniors the children begin to make links between music that has gone before and the influences it has on music today.

Aim to be the best we can be.

We define achieving their best as helping children to build a body of knowledge and learning how to think critically and creatively about it. To that end we use: self-assessment sheets, knowledge organisers, repeated low stakes testing and finding ways of applying the knowledge they are acquiring. A book per child per subject area is our way of ensuring we focus on what value each child is getting from every subject they study.

In Music, we teach the children about their strengths and how to develop them. We always encourage children to listen to a variety of musical genres which are incorporated in our History and Listening Music plan. All children will have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, and will take part in performances which they can work towards through rehearsal. Through this opportunity they will learn what it means to look after an instrument, do regular practice and work towards a public performance.