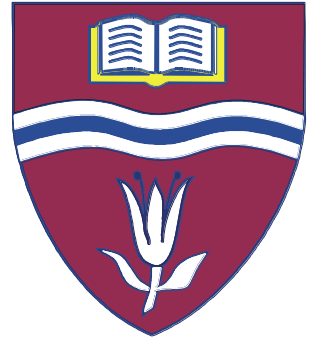




Music Policy

Updated: March 2025

Up for review: March 2028

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

We treasure each child and enable them to flourish, using their God-given potential, establishing a secure foundation for them to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

We are a 'Christ-centred school, with a child-centred curriculum' where wisdom and love guide and influence learning and teaching for our whole community.

INTRODUCTION

This school policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the teaching staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. It should be read in conjunction with other school documents and policies including:

- Assessment policy
- Curriculum Maps
- Display policy
- Homework policy
- Inclusion policies
- Marking policy

At St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School our vision is of a school where all children experience a diverse range of learning opportunities facilitated by enthusiastic staff who encourage the potential in every learner and who ensure that all children develop into confident, responsible and successful members of their community based on shared Christian values.

We believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the notion that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

INTENT

Music as a foundation subject is of great importance within the National Curriculum; it allows learners to be immersed in a world of creativity, where they can express themselves. Through delivering a high-quality musical education, children should feel engaged, inspired and have the correct amount of challenge to develop key listening and appraising, performance and composition skills. At St Mary's our aim is that children should become knowledgeable in all areas of the music curriculum and be able to think critically when analysing both famous works and their own compositions. The importance of music is evident at St Mary's and can be demonstrated through the numerous opportunities that pupils have to showcase their learning, be it through concerts



(virtually and in person), choir performances at local care homes, Nativity plays and end of year productions.

This policy is intended to promote consistency, high standards and the achievement of the school aims. We aim to provide a caring, supportive and stimulating environment with high quality music teaching which will foster:

- Teaching & learning in Music
- Provision for SEND, Higher Attaining and other vulnerable groups including PPG, GRT and EAL.
- Extra-Curricular Opportunities
- Assessment
- Health and Safety

IMPLEMENTATION

Music is part of everyday learning and enjoyment at St Mary's School. During worship, song is regularly used as praise and reflection as well as in many other ways. Moving through Early Years and the Foundation Stage (where music and song is used on a daily basis) all the way through to KS2 end of year productions, music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. Charanga is our chosen scheme, where children receive the opportunity to enhance their listening and appraising skills, through high quality music, perform their piece using instruments or voice, and learn key compositional devices to write music, such as call and response, riffs and ornamentation.

At St Mary's we believe a high-quality musical education can not only inspire a love of music and development of talent and ability (as stated in the National Curriculum) but can also teach many life and communication skills too.

At St. Mary's, music as a discipline teaches:

- collaboration,
- speaking,
- listening,
- respect for individuals and different cultures
- problem-solving
- spotting of patterns
- independence



The National Curriculum sets out the following aims for music; that all pupils:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

At St Mary's these aims are punctuated within cross-curricular learning. Music is taught in conjunction with other subjects, linking to year group themes and topics. This is best done when using works from great composers and musicians. For example, in KS1 this is articulated brilliantly during Year 2's '*Animal Planet*' theme, where children follow 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' by Benjamin Britten, and 'The Carnival of the Animals' by Camille Saint-Saëns. They then use this as inspiration for their own pieces of music about animals, as well as linking to Science and PE dance sessions. Similarly in Key Stage 2, during Year 5's '*The Great, The Bold, The Brave*' theme, Gustav Holst's 'Planets Suite' is used to teach classical musical form as well as linking to their Science and topic session about space and the solar system. Most of all, music is appreciated and enjoyed as a subject within the school as a standalone subject and in other areas.

Provision for SEND, Higher Attaining and other vulnerable groups including PPG, GRT and EAL.

Music is naturally an inclusive session, regardless of:

- ability.
- SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)
- PPG (Pupil Premium Grant)
- GRT (Gypsy/Roma/Travellers)
- EAL (English as Additional Language)

Therefore, teachers provide learning opportunities and environments that are matched to the individual needs of the children. This enables children to access the lessons on their own level, but also strives to move everyone on in their learning, including Higher Attaining pupils. Often Higher Attaining children are used to model techniques or explain concepts to other children in order for them to further their own understanding through application. When teaching music, the targets set from the children's Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), are considered and adhered to.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

It is important that St Mary's provides a number of clubs and opportunities for children to play instruments and perform in ensembles. The school provides two free music clubs: KS2 choir and KS2 recorder (from the spring term onwards.)

There is also a range of peripatetic music lessons taught in school provided by private companies and the West Sussex Music Service. Children can learn the following instruments:

- brass (cornet, trombone)
- woodwind (saxophone, clarinet, flute)
- string and percussion (cello, piano, drums)
- electric guitar, bass guitar
- keyboard
- vocals
- ukulele

IMPACT

In music, as in any other curriculum area at St Mary's, the learner is put at the heart of everything we do. We teach music in a fun and engaging way that will inspire and motivate learners and enable them to use their musical skills independently. When assessing children, we believe this allows the teacher to ensure a closer matching of tasks to the individual child's needs. This therefore improves motivation, promotes effective planning and helps learners improve. In music children are informally assessed by staff and reports to parents will reflect this.

Work will be recorded and evidenced in a variety of ways, depending on the planned focus from the teacher. This may be:

- photographs
- written work
- a filmed video clip of a performance
- recorded compositions

We do not set a formal 'test' in music as a system of passing or failing is not appropriate and indeed can be counterproductive.



HEALTH & SAFETY

The following are Health & Safety guidelines to enable music lessons to be taught in a harmless environment.

- Staff will be provided with appropriate training in the setting up, use and storage of equipment.
- Staff will carry out a visual check of all equipment before use and report any noticeable defects to the subject co-ordinator. Faulty or damaged equipment will be disposed of safely.
- Staff will make direct reference to Health & Safety issues at the start of each lesson so that all children and any other adults in the room are aware of any risks, how to minimise them and what to do in the event of an accident.
- At the beginning of a unit of work (notably Year 4 Samba drumming), staff will inform parents of any Health and Safety risks and any precautions or recommendations parents can make for their children ahead of this, e.g. the use of disposable earplugs or ear defenders.

