



Buckstones Community Primary School

Policy for Music.

Written and agreed by staff: 5th. September 2022

Agreed by Governors: 20th. September 2022

MUSIC POLICY

Introduction

Music is essentially a practical subject which should be enjoyed by all. From an early age children have an awareness of rhythm, pitch and sounds around them and these should be developed on entry to school.

INTENT

Aims:

- To encourage awareness, enjoyment and appreciation of music in all its forms.
- To develop imagination and creativity.
- To help children of all abilities develop positive attitudes and to experience success and satisfaction in music lessons.
- To offer opportunities to perform, compose, listen and appraise.

Skills:

Performing skills

Children will be taught to sing a wide ranging variety of songs and to use their voices expressively. They should have the opportunity to play tuned and untuned instruments with increasing control and should rehearse and perform with others, with an awareness of the audience.

Composing skills

Children will create musical patterns and will be shown how to explore, select and organise musical ideas, recording these in a variety of ways, (e.g. pictorial score, patterns or using musical notation.)

Appraising skills

Children will be given the opportunity to explore and explain their own ideas and feelings about music, using music, dance, expressive language and musical vocabulary. They will analyse and compare sounds and will become confident at suggesting improvements for their own work and that of others.

Listening and applying knowledge and understanding

Children should be able to listen with concentration and to internalise and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.

They will develop a growing awareness of the eight musical elements:

- *pitch*
- *duration*
- *pace*
- *dynamics*
- *texture*
- *timbre*
- *form*
- *silence.*

They will learn that time and place can influence the way music is created, performed and heard, that music is produced in different ways and is described through invented and standard notations.

IMPLEMENTATION

Approach

Music is taught throughout the school, establishing cross curricular links where possible, although some lessons may be taught as discrete units.

The **Music Express** scheme is used for the teaching of music throughout the school from Reception to Year 4. **Music Express** provides a set of teaching activities to support the National Curriculum and fulfils the aims for musical learning. It is:

- topic-based
- cross-curricular
- musically diverse
- fully resourced
- accessible to non-music readers

The essence of Music Express is to create a topic-based, cross-curricular approach to support children's learning in music and across other subjects through music.

The National Curriculum states '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.'

By using Music Express our children will hear many examples of music styles and genres from different times and places. These are explored through the language of music via active listening, performing and composing activities, which enable understanding of the context and genre.

The National Curriculum states 'That all pupils: learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others..... use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.'

At Buckstones we provide a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

The English National Curriculum states 'That all pupils: 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.'

Through **Music Express** we build experience and develop understanding of the dimensions (elements) of music throughout the scheme. Each unit has as its focus one process such as performance or composition, or one dimension, such as pitch, but the learning progresses within the context of all the inter-related processes and dimensions of music. A wide variety of notations, including picture, graphic, rhythm and staff notation are integrated, wherever appropriate, with practical music-making activities throughout the scheme. Notations are used progressively to promote understanding and use of the representation of sound in symbols by all children.

Music lessons for Years 5 and 6 are planned and taught in line with the National Curriculum by a fully qualified Music Teacher from the Oldham Music Service. This includes the children learning to play the recorder in Year 5.

Continuity and progression

A steady progression plan has been built into **Music Express**, both within each year and from one year to the next, ensuring consistent musical development.

Differentiation

There are opportunities in **Music Express** for teachers to diversify music activities with the purpose of improving inclusivity in the classroom. Many of the lessons have accompanying SEND notes to include as wide a range of additional needs as possible. Suggestions are made for how teachers can approach different barriers to learning with an inclusive lens. Pupils experiencing difficulties can also be given extra encouragement and support by working in a small group with the Teacher/Teaching Assistant. A Peripatetic teacher from the Oldham Music Service teaches lessons in school for those wishing to learn a brass instrument. This takes place from Year 2 onwards.

IMPACT

At Buckstones, we believe that by providing children with a rich music education they will be able to apply the skills, such as appraisal, that they have learnt, to different subject areas. The design of our music curriculum allows for all children, regardless of starting points, to make good progress. Planned lessons will ensure that prior knowledge is continually built upon and the children are continuously growing their knowledge and understanding. Children will develop confidence in playing instruments and using their voices expressively and creatively, enabling them to develop into confident musicians.

Teachers will use the building blocks to monitor and assess children's progress termly. We assess children in relation to their ability to listen and appraise, create and explore and perform. We use this as the basis for assessing the

progress of the child and we pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of the year. The teachers keep a bank of evidence which can include video/audio recordings of individuals, videos/photographs of group performances and records of children's ideas and notations.

Choir

The choir meets with Mrs. Pearson and Mrs Tetlow for music for 45 minutes every Thursday afternoon after school in the Autumn and Spring Terms. From Year 4 to 6 children are welcome to join this. The choir performs at the Young Voices Concert on an annual basis at the Manchester AO Arena.

Brass Tuition and the School Band

The School band meets with Mr Byers, the Brass Teacher every Thursday morning before school to rehearse. The band also takes part in the Oldham Music Festival and recently received a very positive response from the adjudicator in July 2022. The band also performs in the School Christmas Carol Concert.

Brass lessons are available to children from Year 2 onwards and these are taught throughout the day on Thursday.

Acts of Worship

In Key Stage 2, the children have hymn practice every Monday morning. Hymns are sung during some of our Acts of Worship in assembly on Tuesday and Friday.

Resources

A range of tuned and untuned instruments can also be found in the music cupboard in the Reflection Room.

Music Express Online can be accessed by all teachers and used on the Smart Boards in each classroom.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher:

The Headteacher will actively support by encouraging staff, praising good practice and supporting staff development and in-service training.

The Music Subject Leaders:

The Music Subject Leader will follow the guidance set out in the subject co-ordinator document. Monitoring and moderation takes place regularly through:

- Monitoring of planning
- Learning Walks
- Observations
- Discussions with Pupils/Pupil Voice Questionnaires
- Staff Meetings and Staff Audits
- Meetings/observations with the nominated governor

The Class Teacher: The Class Teacher will be responsible for the teaching of music as set out in this policy (the Music Teacher from Oldham Music Service will be responsible for Year 5 and 6).

This policy was redrafted during the Summer Term 2022 and the Policy will be reviewed as part of the School Development Plan.