

# Music at Carr Mill Primary School

## Intent

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure 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 Carr Mill Primary School, we intend to provide our children, starting in nursery, with the opportunities to learn through music, songs and rhyme.

From an early age, music should be spontaneous and ongoing. Children need to have the confidence to explore their voices and different sounds, as well as musical instruments, in order to become confident musicians.

Nursery is where children start their musical learning, through a love of and enjoyment for music, laying down the foundations for KS1 and KS2 where they learn more about the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure), singing and playing instruments, and that they are all linked.

At Carr Mill Primary School, we want our children to enjoy, understand, interpret and explore music from different historical periods, styles, traditions and genres.

We have created a long term planner that maps out blocks of music teaching from the Charanga scheme each year. As we operate mixed-age classes, units taught are taken from the mix of year groups, over a two-year cycle. Year four pupils are the only exception to this as they receive weekly brass tuition. This is provided by the musical experts from the St Helens Music Hub.

## Implementation

### Music in EYFS

As well as learning through music, songs and rhymes in all areas of learning, children in Nursery and reception follow the Charanga scheme of work for their music sessions. This is organised by:

1. Listen and Respond
2. Explore and Create - initially using voices only, but building to using classroom instruments too
3. Singing - nursery rhymes and action songs - building to singing and playing
4. Share and Perform

Above all, music is spontaneous and ongoing.

### Music in KS1 and KS2

Our KS1 and KS2 music curriculum follows the Charanga scheme, which is an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning.

All musical learning in this scheme is built around the interrelated dimensions of music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. These dimensions are at the centre of all the learning. Each unit of work consists of the strands of musical learning which correspond with the national curriculum for music and are organised by:

1. Listening and Appraising
2. Musical Activities
  - Warm-up Games
  - Optional Flexible Games
  - Singing
  - Playing instruments
  - Improvisation
  - Composition
3. Performing

Charanga enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills.

Due to the repetitive nature of the Charanga scheme, units can be delivered as stand-alone units due to the depth of learning and spiral progression methodology. Units of work are chosen for our cycles by looking at the suitability of the main unit song for the age group.

Care is taken by staff to ensure that the progression of vocabulary for each year group is carefully planned for within our mixed age classes and teaching over our 2-year cycles. Staff also ensure the depth of the interrelated dimensions of music are suitable for the year groups within their mixed age classes and adapt these as required to suit the year groups.

We also ensure that our children have opportunities to visit the philharmonic in Liverpool to enhance and support their cultural capital. This is done in Cycle B- children from Y1 upwards visit.

### Impact

At Carr Mill Primary School, we aim for all of our children to leave with the confidence and skills required to independently:

- Listen and appraise
- Play musical games
- Create and explore
- Perform

Children will have developed new musical skills and concepts, and re-visited established musical skills and concepts, as they have progressed along the spiral learning curve.

In addition, they will have developed an understanding of culture and history through learning about and listening to music from different historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.

Repeating a musical skill means their progress, throughout the primary school journey, shifts within the spiral. Mastery in music means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new; we aim to have given our children these skills so that they can go on to enjoy and experience music in the wider world.

We aim for all of our children to leave us with this deeper understanding, but above all, a life-long love for, and appreciation of, music which they can take with them on their journeys.