

St. Thomas's CE Primary School

Music Policy

'Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and life to everything.'
~ Plato

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a universal language that embodies creativity and is a powerful, unique form of communication. It goes beyond cultures, abilities and generations. Music gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual. It can have an impact on the way children think, feel and act.

Music reflects our culture and society and so the teaching and learning of music at St. Thomas's enables children to better understand the world they live in. We believe at St. Thomas's that every child should have the opportunity to develop their music potential and we aim to nurture and encourage musical development across the school. All children will have the opportunity to participate fully in classroom music lessons which include playing a variety of instruments, using their voice to sing expressively, making music and listen to a wide range of music. Children can develop their skills as musicians by learning to play an instrument with a specialist music teacher. We want our children to foster a love of music and develop their talent as musicians; increasing self-confidence, creativity and a sense of achievement.

Aims

Music at St. Thomas's enables children to:

- Have the opportunity to experience enjoyment through a variety of musical activities and to respond to musical emotions
- Help children of all abilities to develop positive attitudes and to experience success and satisfaction in music
- Develop an understanding of music through understanding how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures
- Know how music is made through a variety of instruments
- Have the opportunity to play a variety of musical instruments
- Give them the opportunity to compose music and express their ideas and feelings through music
- Know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written
- Develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music
- Enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles
- Encourage children to express ideas, feelings and opinions about music
- Develop socially through collaborative working in the shared experience of music making
- Develop an appropriate music vocabulary to help them understand their own work and that of others
- Provide children with performance opportunities so children can feel part of a community

Teaching and learning style

At St. Thomas's music is planned to integrate national curriculum guidelines with class topics (where appropriate) within each year group in a skills-based, creative curriculum. St. Thomas's have subscribed to Sing Up which is delivered by class teachers or HLTA's on a weekly basis. Year Four are taught by Wider Ops. All children are encouraged to participate in and enjoy music lessons regardless of their ability. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children.

Music curriculum planning

Music throughout the school is taught from Sing Up, a complete primary music scheme. This provides a balanced, structured programme which ensures careful year-on-year progression and is guaranteed to enrich and extend children's musical experience. There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit.

In addition to the music curriculum there are opportunities for children to learn an instrument with their class. The Wider Opportunities Programme gives all Year Four children the chance to learn a new musical instrument in school for a year. A peripatetic music specialist provides the weekly tuition. The school loans a set of good quality instruments and each term they learn a new instrument. This supports the collaborate work within music and allows them to have a real sense of musicianship.

Additional music teaching

Peripatetic music teaching is organised by the Music Co-ordinator and School Business Manager. There are currently **five** peripatetic instrument teachers available to provide extra-curricular instrumental teaching at St. Thomas's in guitar, keyboard, violin, singing and wind instruments. Parents can make arrangements for their own children to learn with these teachers. Weekly lessons take place during lesson time. The school has a choir which performs at significant events during the school calendar. This is open to children from Year Three to Six.

Foundation Stage

We teach music in our Reception class as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Music is planned for Reception using Sing Up which matches the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework. Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. During the Early Years Foundation Stage, children explore, experiment, practise, repeat and consolidate musical ideas and skills through singing, playing and movement; they have access to instruments appropriate to their age. Music by its very nature will develop skills and competencies in other areas of learning.

The contribution of Music to teaching in other curriculum areas

Most music is taught as a discrete subject however there are opportunities within other subjects to develop musical skills.

- Science curriculum (topics on sound and listening)
- PE curriculum (dancing)
- English curriculum (where it can act as a stimulus but also to develop listening skills)
- Art (as a stimulus for creative work in a different medium)

- History (listening to music from the particular time being studied)
- ICT (making sound with computers/iPads).
- Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship (through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people and build up good relationships. Music is the basis of many social activities and has an important role to play in the personal development of many young people. It has a vital role to play in building self-confidence.)
- RE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (We encourage children to reflect on the important effect that music has on people's moods, senses and quality of life. Children at St. Thomas's School have the opportunity to encounter music from other cultures and, through their growing knowledge and understanding of the music, are encouraged to develop more positive attitudes towards other cultures and societies).

Teaching music to children with special needs

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. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. Learners with special educational needs are able to develop confidence through the expression of their feelings in music, as it is a subject in which success does not depend on academic ability.

Opportunities for live music and performance

Children at St. Thomas's are given opportunities to express and showcase their musical abilities. This is achieved through:

- Singing practise – Hymn practice once a week, daily singing during worship and assembly times. Children learn new songs together in preparation for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest or for special themed weeks. This is supported by Out of The Ark and Sing Up Music resources.
- Listening & Appraising – Music is played at the beginning and end of the worship and assembly times and there are further opportunities for quiet reflection.
- School Productions - At Christmas, two musical performances are rehearsed and performed for parents and the wider community. Year Two lead the Nativity at the Carol Service in church with contributions from the Key Stage Two choir. Each class lead an assembly which is usually based on a topic they have been learning about to showcase to the rest of the school and parents. As Year Six end their learning journey at St. Thomas's they lead the leaver's assembly. The Year Four children are involved in the Wider Opportunities programme and they perform to their parents and the rest of the school.
- Opportunities are also sought for the children to perform in the local community (e.g. church services, pensioners Christmas parties etc).

Assessment and Recording

Teachers assess children's work in music by making informal judgements about achievement and attainment as they observe them during lessons. This is used as the basis for assessing the progress of the children and for completing reports to parents. Voice and video recordings may be used to record work as a tool for creating a bank of evidence to show children's achievements during their time at St. Thomas's which is stored on the school's network.

In-Service Training

Appropriate opportunities for in-service training are found, whenever possible, for the music co-ordinator and members of staff and then shared at staff meetings.

Resources

A variety of musical instruments are kept centrally. Children are taught from beginning school how to use and care for all these instruments and also to check each instrument before returning it to its storage area. Every classroom at St. Thomas's has an interactive whiteboard to aid the learning of Music within school. Teachers are also encouraged to use the resources on the Sing Up website as well as YouTube. iPads are used to record assessment in Music.

On grounds of health and safety, children are always encouraged to use instruments carefully and safely. Instruments with mouthpieces should be cleaned after use.

Role of the Music Coordinator

The role of the Music coordinator is:

- To endeavour to promote a holistic musical experience for every child at St. Thomas's through a creative musical curriculum
- To update and administer the school music curriculum and oversee its implementation by other staff
- Keep up to date with developments in music through reading and course attendance as well as attending Wigan Music Service Hub Meetings
- Support staff with the teaching of Music at St. Thomas's
- Support staff with subject knowledge and arrange in-service training if required
- Be responsible for the overall upkeep, cataloguing and purchasing of all school musical resources and facilities.
- Review and update (if needed) the school policy statement and guidelines as required
- To organise opportunities for children to showcase their musical learning through performances
- Coordinate extra-curricular music activities as appropriate to staffing and pupil interest
- Represent the school at external meetings in relation to music.

M Croft
Music Coordinator
April 2024

Review: L Knowles – April 2025