

Music Intent Statement



As a welcoming and inclusive family school we will embrace all members of our community. St. Stephen's will strive to foster an enriched love of learning embodied in the Word of Christ by celebrating and nurturing a child's full potential, for we believe that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

Mission Statement: St. Stephen's is rooted in Christian faith and committed to excellence: encouraging staff to excel, pupils to flourish, and all to feel secure, valued and loved.

Intent:

At St. Stephen's we develop a thorough understanding of music, through teaching skills - listening and appraising, performing (singing and playing), composing and analysing. We aim to improve self-confidence through performance, both through lessons and extra-curricular participation. We encourage creativity through composition skills.

Our intention is that children gain a firm understanding of music through a high-quality music education that includes teaching skills across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective at St. Stephen's is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life.

Our music curriculum intends to inspire creativity, self-expression and encourages our children on their musical journey as well as giving them opportunities to connect with others. We hope to foster a life long love of music by exposing them to diverse musical experiences and igniting a passion. By listening and responding to different musical styles, finding their voices as singers and performers and as composers, all will enable them to become confident, reflective musicians.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

Implement:

The music curriculum ensures students listen, sing, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the joining of one of our many musical ensembles.

The elements of music are taught through out scheme (Charanga Musical School) in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed.

In EYFS and KS1, the children enjoy singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. They have the opportunity to play both tuned and percussion instruments which they use to create, select and combine sounds. They also listen and move to a wide range of music.

Children in KS2 build on the skills acquired in KS1 so that, by the end of year 6, they sing and play with increasing control and self-confidence. They deepen their understanding of music in the world and the significance of music through history. Children are encouraged to explore their own musical preferences and discuss these with confidence.

In the classroom, children learn how to play an instrument, in doing so understand the method of creating notes, as well as how to read basic music notation. They also learn how to compose focussing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

All children take part in weekly singing assemblies which contribute to our Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations. Our Christmas and end of year performances provide an opportunity for the children to share their work in music with parents, governors and other friends of the school.

Children in Year 4 have the opportunity to learn a brass instrument through the Wider Opportunities scheme. This is taught practically by an external teacher every week, the class teacher the theoretical skills alongside these lessons. The children perform as a brass ensemble every term in a concert for parents.

Singing is an integral part of our school life at St Stephen's and brings us together as a community. We have extra-curricular clubs for music, including: a KS1 singing club, KS2 choir and Performing Arts Club. These groups sing at the school Spring and Christmas Fayre, hold their own concerts and perform in the community also.

Impact:

Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows them to discover areas of strength, as well as areas they might like to improve upon. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a child may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection.

Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music, in as many ways as they choose- either as listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives.

In Christ: Be healthy, Be happy, Be helpful, Believe.