

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

# Music Policy



“Doing our best for God”

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of Music. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate.

### **SMSC Statement**

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, Music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

The objectives of teaching Music in our school are to enable children to:

- ✦ know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- ✦ know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- ✦ know how music is composed and written down;
- ✦ 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.

### **Teaching and learning style**

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. We use an interactive scheme of work, Charanga, as the basis of our planning, and build on this to ensure full curriculum coverage. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer, and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We also teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation and to compose pieces. All Year 4 children are taught a brass instrument as part of the Wider Opportunities programme provided by

Blackpool Music Hub. We assess the children using the Lancashire KLIPs, based on the latest National Curriculum guidance.

We recognise that in all classes children have a wide range of musical ability, and so we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways:

- ⤴ setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- ⤴ setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- ⤴ setting tasks of differing complexity, depending on the ability of the child;
- ⤴ providing resources of differing complexity, depending on the ability of the child;
- ⤴ using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

### **Additional music teaching**

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Teachers visit our school on a weekly basis to teach violin, brass instruments, keyboard and guitar. These lessons are normally taught to small groups of children. All classes participate in weekly Hymn Practice. A drumming club is run as an extra-curricular lesson after school. St Bernadette's school choir is open to pupils from Years 2-6 and meets weekly after school.

### **Teaching music to children with special educational 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, and our work in music takes into account the targets set for individual children.

### **English**

Music contributes to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting reading. Children use reference books and the internet to develop research skills when finding out about the history of music and musicians/composers. Children develop their language skills through singing songs, with attention to diction, meaning, rhythm and rhyme. The use of technical vocabulary is encouraged to be used by the children in every lesson and is modelled by the teacher.

Signed: *Marian Salisbury* Music Coordinator)

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