

# Walmsley C.E. School

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## **Music Curriculum Statement**

Date Drafted	September 2025
Policy Written By	Sarah Baker
Date Approved by Governors	
Date of Next Review	September 2028
Responsible Committee	School Effectiveness

## **Mission Statement**

*'Growing as a family to flourish in God's love'*

Guided by God, we will provide rich, memorable learning experiences which build character in each individual child.

We will ensure that all children are able to experience God's wonderful world in all its fullness.

Together as a family we aim to: love, respect, aspire, trust, have hope and be resilient.

## **Intent**

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all children:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music

At Walmsley, our music curriculum is designed to be ambitious, inclusive and inspiring, ensuring that every child develops a deep understanding and appreciation of music as a universal form of expression and communication. We aim to nurture pupils' confidence, creativity and curiosity through a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes enjoyment and engagement with music in all its forms.

Through listening, singing, playing, composing, evaluating and analysing, children build a secure and progressive understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music. They explore a wide range of musical genres, traditions, and styles from different cultures and historical periods, developing both their practical skills and their ability to think critically about music.

Our intent is to equip all pupils with the knowledge and skills to participate fully in musical experiences within school and beyond, while

fostering an understanding of the value and importance of music in the wider community. We are committed to developing children's cultural capital by exposing them to high-quality musical experiences, celebrating diversity and promoting respect for the way's music enriches people's lives across the world.

## **Implementation**

Music at Walmsley is taught through a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum that builds on prior learning and develops key musical knowledge, skills, and understanding over time. Lessons follow the interrelated dimensions of music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and notation, ensuring children make clear connections between these elements as they progress through the school.

All music lessons are carefully planned taught by a music specialist and provide a varied, engaging and practical approach to music-making. Pupils take part in regular opportunities to sing, play tuned and untuned instruments, compose, and perform individually and collaboratively.

Throughout the year, children experience music from a wide range of cultures, traditions and historical periods. Teaching includes opportunities for pupils to appraise and evaluate both their own work and that of others, deepening their understanding of musical language and expression.

Children also have opportunities to perform in class, assemblies, school events, and to participate in wider community and extra-curricular activities such as choir, instrumental lessons and performances at a variety of external events. This approach ensures that music is valued as an integral part of the school's wider curriculum and community life.

## **Impact**

By the end of their primary journey at Walmsley, pupils will have developed the confidence, knowledge, and skills to express themselves musically and to appreciate music in a range of contexts. They will be able to listen with discrimination, perform with control and expression

and compose creatively using an understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music.

Children will demonstrate curiosity and enthusiasm for music, showing respect for different genres, cultures, and traditions. They will understand the powerful role that music plays in society and in emotional and cultural expression.

The impact of our curriculum is seen in children's enjoyment of music, their growing musical confidence and their ability to use music as a means of communication and creativity. Progress is measured through ongoing formative assessment, performances and pupil voice, ensuring that every child leaves Walmsley with a lasting appreciation of music and the ability to participate in it throughout their lives.

### **Additional Music Teaching:**

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with specialist teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is provided by Bolton Music Service and Rocksteady. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons are taught on both a 1 to 1 basis for children and in small groups for who have chosen to learn an instrument. We currently have children learning to play singing, piano, drums, brass, bass guitar, electric guitar, classical guitar, strings, woodwind and the keyboard. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school and takes place before school and during curriculum time on a rotational basis.

### **Resources:**

We have a range of percussion instruments including djembe drums, drum kit, keyboards and 2 pianos. We have a dedicated music room with a piano for 1 :1 and small group music lessons. The Whole Class teaching of music takes place in our music room and the weekly Hymn Practice takes place in the School Hall.

## **Performances and wider opportunities**

At Walmsley, we believe that music enriches the lives of all who experience it, and we aim to involve as many children as possible in musical activities both within and beyond school.

We are proud to have two thriving Key Stage 2 school choirs, open to all children in Years 3–6. Our *Young Voices Choir* meets weekly on Mondays and our second choir rehearses on Wednesday lunchtimes. The choirs provide pupils with the joy of singing together while developing vocal technique, teamwork and confidence. Both choirs perform regularly throughout the year, taking part in events such as *Young Voices*, *Bolton Music Festival*, *Last Choir Singing*, and a range of community performances.

We provide regular opportunities for budding musicians to share their talents through solo and ensemble performances in assemblies, concerts and special events. These experiences allow pupils to showcase their achievements and celebrate their musical success with the wider school community.

Children also have the opportunity to take part in instrumental projects such as the *Hallé Orchestra's Adopt a Musician* scheme. Through this initiative, pupils collaborate with professional musicians, attend live performances at the Bridgewater Hall, and participate in a joint concert alongside other schools at Canon Slade School.

Weekly *Singing Worship* sessions, led by Mr Martin in the school hall, provide every child with the chance to sing together as a community. All pupils also take part in services at Walmsley CE Parish Church, where they sing hymns and songs of worship as part of our collective spiritual life.

To further inspire our children, we offer trips to live theatre performances including musicals such as *Mary Poppins*, *Matilda*, and annual pantomimes in Manchester. These experiences broaden pupils'

understanding of the performing arts and nurture a lifelong appreciation of music and performance.