Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School

Music Policy

As with the rest of our curriculum, Music is shaped around our Christian vision:

Love your Neighbour as yourselves *Matthew 22:39*
Let us encourage one another. *Hebrews 10:25*

Intent

At Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School, we believe music is a universal language that nurtures creativity, expression, and connection. Our aim is to provide a high-quality, diverse music education that inspires pupils to develop both a love of music and their skills as musicians. Through singing, playing instruments, reading notation, listening, performing, and creating, children gain confidence, creativity, and a sense of achievement. We want every child to experience the joy of making music together, the satisfaction of composing their own work, and the richness of music from different cultures, traditions, and historical periods. By embedding music in school life, we hope to inspire lifelong engagement and foster a deep appreciation of the arts.

Our aims in teaching music includes the opportunities for all pupils to;

• develop skills, knowledge and understanding in performing, composing, listening and appraising.
• broaden awareness of the many forms music can take, and how it reflects different cultures, times and places.
• nurture independence, self-esteem, motivation and empathy, while encouraging pupils to work, share and create collaboratively.
• provide opportunities for children to explore a wide range of sounds and instruments.
• the chance to experience live music in diverse forms and from a variety of cultural traditions.

Our school values, Kindness, Forgiveness, Honesty and Empathy are all woven into our musical curriculum and children are reminded of them during sessions.

Implementation

Our planning for Music, follows the revised National Curriculum for Music guidelines September 2014 and the Early Years Framework and is delivered using Sparkyard Scheme of Work. This supports teacher knowledge and understanding when delivering the key concepts of the music curriculum as well as drawing on support from the Music Hub to provide whole class instrumental tuition – currently recorders, Y4.

The Early Years foundation stage curriculum is based on 6 areas of learning aiming to promote all aspects of a child's development. Music comes under the 'Expressive Art and Design' area of learning within 'Exploring media and materials' and 'Being Imaginative'. In Early Years, music is taught through adult-led activities and child-led activities involving listening to rhythmic patterns in rhymes and stories and joining in with actions and vocalisation following Sparkyard Scheme of Work. They will also be involved in moving to music with actions with a regular beat and tapping out simple repeated rhythms. Instruments within continuous provision across the Early Years encourage performance and exploration of sounds and singing. Children in the Early Years will take part in singing familiar songs and will explore the different sounds made by instruments.

Music is taught weekly in all years as well as a whole school singing Collective Worship, in which children learn songs for the appropriate part of the Liturgical Calendar. Pupils at Wheldrake with Thorganby participate in a range of performances during their school journey. They take part in Harvest, Christmas and Easter church services, have a weekly singing collective worship and singing is a feature in our daily collective worships
Our learning environments encourage children to return to past learning regularly so that they can embed key concepts, skills and knowledge. Hands-on activities are favoured. Children may not always record their learning formally as we value a wide range of learning opportunities such as composing, appraising and performing music.

To further enrich our classroom learning pupils are given a vast range of musical opportunities at Wheldrake school including:

- Weekly singing worship
- Church services throughout the academic year, where children sing modern and popular congregational hymns as a whole school, along with staff, parents and other members of the community.
- Annual musical performances, which Key Stage 1 and Year 5/6 perform to rest of the school in their dress rehearsals before a final performance:

  Autumn term - Key Stage 1 and EYFS

  Summer term - Year 6 leavers performance

  All children will participate in acting, singing, dancing and instrumental playing.
- Annual singing around the tree at Christmas time
- Young Voices (Key Stage 2) Spring term opportunity to sing with a large group from other local schools, with a live band, dance performers and vocalists in a large concert arena
- Children have the opportunity to perform in their enrichment experiences to parents.
- Annual singing to the residents at Sommerset House.
- Children at our school have the opportunity to experience live performances by visiting the pantomime.

Impact

The impact of our music curriculum can be seen through the enthusiasm and confidence our children demonstrate in their singing and performances and the progress they make over time. Photo and video evidence is used to assess pupils' progression. Pupil voice demonstrates how the children talk enthusiastically and articulately about music, demonstrating strong retention of prior knowledge and using subject - specific terminology with confidence. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils sing and play with increasing confidence and control. They demonstrate an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory. Music has a huge impact on the children's wellbeing, listening and concentration skills and this can also be seen in the school communities love and appreciation of music

Assessment and recording

Assessment in music is an ongoing, responsive process integrated directly into the planning, teaching and learning cycle. Continuous formative assessment is used during lessons to check understanding, identify misconceptions and adapt responsive teaching. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives oral or written feedback, as necessary, to inform future progress. Pupils are also encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work.

We use this as the basis for assessing the progress of each child and year group as a whole. Summative assessment evaluates how securely pupils retain core musical knowledge over time and whether curriculum intent is being met.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

At Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School, we are committed to providing an ambitious and fully inclusive music curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND, disadvantaged background and EAL. We ensure that every child accesses the same high-quality core knowledge and disciplinary skills rather than a reduced or diluted curriculum.

Teachers employ evidence-based adaptive teaching strategies to remove barriers to learning and manage cognitive load. Scaffolding is planned and adjusted during lessons to support independence. This includes the use of visual aids for use in composition, pre-taught vocabulary, visual terminology reminders, structured composition frames and appropriate choice of instruments to use.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the Music Lead. Monitoring of music includes; learning walks, environment looks, teacher planning, pupil performance recordings, pupil voice and staff voice. The school will ensure that this policy is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that the policy is consistently applied. Any issues identified will be addressed by the Music Lead. A yearly music plan will also be published on the school website by the end of the Autumn Term reporting on Music provision during the previous academic year.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the music subject leader.

Date of validation…… Signed…….
Chair of Governors

Date of review……. Signed…….
Chair of Governors

September 2026