



Subject: Music

Rationale

At St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School, we are musicians! We believe that music is a subject that should not only be reserved for the prodigiously talented few, but enjoyed and shared by all children who come into our school. Musical education should not only develop subject specific knowledge and skills, but also promote creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

Music is also beneficial for maintaining emotional and social well-being, and can be an important boost to self-confidence. Furthermore, music is an important element of cultural and social diversity, with music education supporting the development of an understanding and appreciation both of our own culture and those of other cultures.

Characteristics of a Well-rounded Musician (Curriculum Aims)

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils can:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Curriculum Intent

The music curriculum of St Vincent de Paul has been designed to provide a scaffolded and progressive programme which enables the children to develop their musical creativity through practical and exploratory opportunities, allowing them to develop as listeners, composers, improvisers, and performers. As they move through the school, the children will also develop an increasing understanding of the history of music, learning about music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the traditionally recognised great composers and musicians.

Furthermore, we seek to utilise both the historic role of Liverpool as a musical city and the current cultural resources that the city holds to bring our musical education to life through the use of relevant educational visits and inviting visitors into our school.

Curriculum Implementation

We use the music scheme Charanga Musical School as our primary teaching resource. This scheme allows for the interrelated dimensions of music to weave through musical units and encourage the development of musical knowledge and skills. Children build their knowledge and capabilities of listening and appraising, understanding different musical activities such as composition and improvisation, and both vocal and instrumental performance. At the beginning of each unit, children have the opportunity to demonstrate prior knowledge including connected knowledge. This is a balanced and appropriately sequenced curriculum which allows children to build on and develop the knowledge and skills required to secure their understanding, ability, and appreciation of music.

As part of the wider opportunities national initiative, our Year 4 pupils receive additional instrumental tuition in the form of weekly whole class guitar lessons. Finally, children have opportunities to recall their musical knowledge and skills and demonstrate their abilities through performance.

Curriculum Impact

As a result of all that we implement, we have a growing and thriving musical culture in our school, where opportunities for both experiencing and participating in musical activities is an exciting reality. Regardless of perceived ability, children are encouraged and supported in pursuing musical outlets for their creativity, and are celebrated for their efforts.

We continue to seek further opportunities to embed music across all aspects of school life, and are focused on developing our confidence and skills in effective music pedagogies.