



Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Music

Intent

*“Music is life itself. What would this world be without good music?”
Louis Armstrong*

At St Charles Borromeo we have designed a curriculum which we believe will prepare our children for life beyond primary school. Everything we do is underpinned by our Gospel values and ethos, with 4 key words highlighting our learning journey through school, namely:

Grow, Learn, Work, Follow

We will **grow** in our Catholic faith by praying and worshipping together.

We will work hard so that we can **learn** and be the best that we can be.

We will **work** together in our families, school, and parish, and with those both near and far, to make our world a better place for us all.

We will **follow** the example of Jesus and his teachings in all that we say and do.

Our aim is for all of our children to:

- **Grow** to be confident, inquisitive and reflective learners who take risks and persevere
- **Learn** to be respectful and tolerant children who are kind to themselves and others, so that they can be the best that they can be
- **Work** independently and collaboratively with self-discipline and resilience
- **Follow** the example of Jesus to live out our faith and values in an ever changing world

At St Charles, we want to inspire our children to be creative and express themselves as they continue on their own musical journey. Our teaching aims



to help them to develop the musical knowledge and skills they will need to progress. We ensure that we are meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum, providing opportunities for children to develop their musicianship through singing, listening, composing and performing, including opportunities for instrumental performance.

We have all experienced the power of music to lift our mood, improving our health and wellbeing. When we listen to, or join in with music, we start to worry less and enjoy life more. People are brought together and feelings of loneliness and social isolation disappear. At St Charles, we want every child to enjoy these many benefits. We aim to create an environment where they are immersed in the musical experience. Where music is valued. Where the children develop a life-long love of music.

Implementation

“Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable.”

Leonard Bernstein

Our weekly music lessons follow the Charanga scheme of work. Lesson plans and guidance are provided, to support teachers in the delivery of engaging lessons. A variety of musical styles and genres are introduced across the key stages, and children join in with a range of activities with a strong practical and inclusive focus. In each lesson, they will listen to a new piece of music and appraise it, join in with vocal warm-ups and engaging activities and games. Over the course of a unit, they will have the experience of performing, and also age-appropriate opportunities to improvise and compose.

Whilst our approach is largely based on singing, we also ensure that the children have the experience of playing musical instruments by providing glockenspiels to support the music lessons. By following the Charanga scheme, we ensure progression of skills across the Key Stages.

In addition to whole class music lessons, there are a variety of opportunities for children to experience and engage with music at St Charles. Our weekly whole school hymn practice allows children a regular opportunity to sing as part of a large group and will include chances for singing parts, rounds and harmonies. Our choir, which is open to children from Years 4, 5 and 6, is very popular and active. They sing a mixture of religious music and popular songs, and attend events and performances throughout the school year. The Recorder club, which is open to children in Key Stage 2, has encouraged children to take up learning



an instrument as part of a small group. Members of the club have had the opportunity to accompany the congregation when singing The Lamb of God during whole school Mass.

Many of our children choose to learn to play a musical instrument. They have the opportunity to learn piano, guitar, flute or clarinet from our peripatetic teachers through Surrey Arts. The annual music recital gives these children a chance to showcase their talents and celebrate their achievements. There are opportunities for group and solo performances, and many of the children in the school are really inspired by this exciting event.

Our annual Christmas and Easter productions give the children further opportunities to perform to an audience. Where possible, we encourage the children to sing solos, or in small groups, and also explore ways to include instrumental performances as part of the productions. We engage with the wider community through our visits to local groups, where we will perform songs from our Christmas production.

We continue to develop close links with Salesian school music department, and explore ways in which we can use visits, trips and musical workshops with other providers to ensure that our children are able to experience a variety of good quality music covering a range of styles.

Impact

“One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.”

Bob Marley

Our teaching staff and other adults celebrate the children’s achievements and success. Through the recordings of whole class singing and instrumental work, children and teachers can explore ways in which they can improve their performance.

By ensuring progression in the playing of instruments and use of musical notation across the year groups, as well as regular opportunities for performance, we ensure that all children make good progress in their skills.

One of the ways in which we recognise the impact of our curriculum is the number of children that choose to take up an instrument either in or out of school, some of whom will move on to take musical exams.



Our annual reports will include a summative judgement for each child's achievement in music and also provide an opportunity for any special mention relating to performances throughout the academic year. The impact of our curriculum is also measured through regular pupil voice interviews and staff questionnaires.

Through their time at St Charles, our children develop confidence in themselves as a musician, and also as a performer. We trust that they are inspired to continue listening to and playing music and leave St Charles ready for the challenges that lie ahead of them.