

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Music Rationale

At St. Joseph's, music is highly valued as a form of expression and creativity. Being an Accent Music Ambassador school that has been awarded with the Music Mark 2020/21, we aim to engage and enrich children's school life through music.

Music is taught on a two year rolling programme after EYFS. We follow the Charanga music scheme and across each topic, the children are provided with opportunities to develop their skills within the main elements of music: listening and appraising, composition, singing, playing and performance. By the end of each key stage, children will have gained a thorough understanding of each of these elements. This rationale aims to provide an overview of the teaching, learning and progression of skills across each key stage, in both cycle A and cycle B.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Autumn Term

In the Autumn term of cycle A, the children in years 1 and 2 will be introduced to two songs which are based around two different styles of music; 'Rhythm In The Way We Walk' (Reggae style) and 'The Banana Rap' (Hip Hop style). Within this unit, the children will spend time listening and appraising the songs. Once familiar, the children will then complete a range of activities to find the pulse of each piece of music, before using body percussion to keep to the rhythm. Additionally, the children will also begin to explore pitch, recognising high and low sounds; they will then be able to use their understanding of this when learning to sing and perform the songs. In cycle B, the children will work through the 'Hands, feet, Heart' unit, which focuses on a song of the same name by Joanna Mangona. This unit celebrates South African music, whilst also allowing children to explore and develop an appreciation for music from countries such as China, India and Mexico. Through studying these songs, not only will the children learn to match the rhythm patterns and work towards each movement being a specific note, they will also learn to sing or sign the songs and develop the fundamentals for performance that will be developed as they progress through the school.

During the Autumn term of both cycle A and B, the children will also complete a unit focusing upon developing their skills in composition. They will begin to learn that music is made by creating patterns of sounds, before exploring how they can use their voice, different musical instruments, and ICT software (Music4Kids) to compose their own, short piece of music based upon a theme.

Spring Term

To begin this term, in both cycle A and B, the children will learn about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. They will develop an understanding of basic musical vocabulary (such as tempo, dynamics and pitch) and will be introduced to simple notation. The children will learn to play basic notes on the glockenspiel and will build up their skills to play a short song. At the end of the unit, the children will be able to use and apply their knowledge to build upon the compositional skills learned in the previous term and compose their own tunes.

In the second half of the term in cycle A, the children will complete the unit entitled 'In the Groove', which allows children to build upon their understanding of pulse and rhythm as they work towards being able to sing and perform the song. As the song demonstrates a range of different music styles (Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk), the children will be exposed to a range of high-quality music, of which they can begin to develop an appreciation for. In the second half of the term in cycle B, all of the learning is focused around one song: 'Round and Round', a Bossa Nova Latin style piece. The children will revise rhythm, pitch and pulse, before linking these musical concepts to the song by clapping and moving. They will also create body percussion and create their own actions to accompany the lyrics, before developing their performance skills towards the end of the unit as they perform in small groups.

Summer Term

In the Summer Term of cycle A, the children will focus upon the unit 'Your Imagination'. Within this unit, not only will the children have opportunities to learn to sing/sign the song, but they will also be able to use this as inspiration to create their own composition based upon an imaginative character, place or story. They will learn to use graphic notation to create their own short score, which they can then perform using vocal sounds or body percussion. In cycle B, children in years 1 and 2 will learn about what it means to be friends by learning the 'Friendship Song' by Joanna Mangona. They will break down the song, identifying the introduction, verses and chorus. Afterwards, the children will have the opportunity to learn the cup game routine for each section of the song, before combining all sections to perform the whole routine, keeping to the rhythm.

To end the term in both cycle A and cycle B, the children will draw together everything they have learned from the year to complete their final unit on composition. They will use and apply their knowledge of the different dimensions of music (pitch, tempo and dynamics etc) to create contrast in their pieces and will make use of ICT (Chrome Music Lab - Song Maker) to create their piece.

LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)

Autumn Term

The first unit that the children in LKS2 will look at during cycle A is 'Three Little Birds', which is focused upon the song 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley. Building upon their knowledge of the Reggae music style from KS1, the children will learn to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, whilst also being provided with the chance to listen and appraise other Reggae songs. This will

allow them to identify similarities and differences between the songs. In cycle B, the children will complete a unit focused on the timeless 70s pop song 'Mamma Mia' by Abba. They will look into the history of the band, genre and song and they will have opportunities to listen and appraise 'Mamma Mia' and a variety of other Abba songs. The children will also develop their knowledge of the interrelated dimensions of music through a range of different activities using the song; these include, vocal warm ups, body percussion to keep to the pulse and singing/signing the song.

During the second half of the term, in cycle A, the children in years 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to revisit the glockenspiel to advance their skills and increase their confidence in playing a tuned musical instrument. They will draw upon their prior knowledge of pulse and rhythm to play sequences of notes in time, along with different pieces of music. There will also be opportunities for children to compose their own pieces of music using the glockenspiel. In cycle B, the children will develop their skills in composition, building upon what they learned during KS1 to create their own piece based upon a given theme.

Spring Term

The Spring term of cycle A will begin with a focus upon composition. The children will begin to create simple, rhythmic patterns, short melodies and accompaniments, and begin to make use of the interrelated dimensions of music (tempo, dynamics, pitch and duration) to create contrast. They will also develop their understanding of notation, being able to recognise quavers and semi quavers. Like in KS1, ICT technology will be used to create music, with children being introduced to how we can layer sounds to add depth to a piece of music. Cycle B will bring opportunities for the children in LKS2 to learn to play a new instrument: the recorder. Drawing upon their improved knowledge of notation, the children will learn to read and play individual notes on the recorder, developing an understanding of how the pitch of a note can be changed. They will then begin to string together patterns of notes to create simple tunes, before working in groups to learn and play short songs.

Additionally, during this term, in cycle A, the children will develop their musical understanding by focussing on the song 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. This Charanga unit introduces the children to Soul and Gospel music and through an integrated approach where games, the interrelated dimensions of music, singing and playing instruments are all linked, the children will explore the theme of 'helping one another' through song. In cycle B, all of the learning in the second half of the term is focused around 'The Dragon Song' by Joanna Mangona and Pete Readman. Through song, the children will learn about kindness, respect, friendship, acceptance and happiness. They will also listen to traditional tunes and folk melodies from around the world.

Summer Term

In the first half of the Summer term, in cycle A, the children in LKS2 will study the unit called 'Bringing Us Together', which explores the themes of friendship, peace, hope and unity through song. At the beginning of the unit, the children will analyse the structure of the song and its lyrics, before having the opportunity to write their own lyrics. They will build upon their understanding of rhythm (related to syllables) and will learn to sing the song in tune within a group, with control of breathing and clear diction. In cycle B, the children's learning is focused on the famous civil rights song by the Beatles entitled 'Blackbird'. Within this unit, the children will listen and appraise the song, focusing on the meaning behind the lyrics and discussing why the song was written. They will then study how the song has been crafted, identifying the structure and discussing the time

signatures used. This will support the children when they come to create their own lyrics to accompany the backing track.

Like in KS1, the children will end the year in both cycle A and B by using and applying what they have learned about the interrelated dimensions of music, notation and composition to compose their own piece of music based upon a theme. The children will begin to critique their own work and the work of others and suggest improvements.

UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)

Autumn Term

The children in year 5 and 6 will begin the Autumn term in cycle A by studying the classic rock song 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi, along with other famous songs from the same genre. The children will learn that these songs are 'anthems' which unite people when they are singing together, and through listening and appraising, singing the song, playing instruments to accompany the song, improvising and composing, they will develop their understanding of the classic rock genre. In cycle B, the children will complete a six week unit of work that focuses on improvising in the styles of Bossa Nova and Swing. Within this unit, the children will listen to and compare music from both styles, identifying similarities and differences. They will have opportunities to use glockenspiels, percussion, junk instruments or body percussion to improvise patterns of notes inspired by the musical styles. In addition, they will also use Music Explorer to create their own class piece of music; through this, they will develop their understanding of tempo, block and stave notation, rests in music, staff notation, playing in unison and solo playing.

Building upon the skills acquired in KS1 and LKS2, in the second half of the Autumn term for both cycle A and B, the children will engage in a composition unit where they will compose longer pieces of music with a structure. It is within this unit that they will make use of the interrelated dimensions of music and begin to use other musical devices (such as sequence and drone) to create higher quality compositions.

Spring Term

In the Spring term of cycle A, the children will complete the unit entitled 'A New Year Carol', which focuses upon 'A Friday Afternoons Song' by Benjamin Britten. The children will explore how Britten set the words of this traditional Welsh Folk song to new music. They will then use this to inspire their own new music based upon an existing poem or song. Over 6 weeks, the children will create their own graphic scores, including texture (layers of sound) and different dynamics (volume of sound), rehearse these individually or as part of a group and then perform them to the class with increased confidence. In cycle B, the children will focus their learning around the song 'Make You Feel My Love', the pop ballad written by Bob Dylan and sung by Adele. The children will learn to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, whilst also having opportunities to further develop their listening and appraising skills by studying other pop ballads alongside this.

Following on from this, years 5 and 6 will focus their learning in cycle A around the old-school Hip Hop classic, 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air', with lyrics by Will Smith. Building upon their knowledge of the interrelated dimensions of music (including pulse, rhythm pitch etc.), singing, and playing instruments, the children will learn to sing and perform the song and create their own verses. In cycle B, the children will study the pop song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. In this unit, they will listen and appraise the song before using the compositional software 'Quickbeats' to create their own track. Through this, the children will focus on the effect that texture (layered sounds), tempo (speed) and timbre (quality of sound) has on the character and mood of the track.

Summer Term

Having developed their skills of playing the glockenspiel in KS1 and LKS2, the children in UKS2 will have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder in the Summer term of cycle A. By developing their understanding of musical notation to support their reading of music, the children will learn to play the instrument confidently, with good control and accuracy. In cycle B, the children in years 5 and 6 will study the song 'You've Got A Friend' along with other famous tracks such as 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. With links to PSHE, given that the songs all have strong themes of friendship that has no boundaries and always being there for one another, the children will explore the interrelated dimensions of music further, developing a secure understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, texture and dynamics. They will also learn and perform a signed version of the song.

Finally, to complete the Summer term in both cycle A and B, the children will again revisit compositional skills to combine all elements of music to create their own piece based upon a theme. Not only will they focus on their use of pattern and contrast to create an effective composition, but they will also aim to refine their performance skills, demonstrating an understanding of how music can communicate thoughts and feelings.

Peripatetic Teaching

At St Joseph's, we understand the value of music in a child's education and aim to provide further enriching opportunities for our children to strengthen their love for music and advance their musical skills outside of the curriculum. Consequently, children from year 2 to year 6 have the option to learn to play a musical instrument (these currently being guitar or the drums). During high quality weekly lessons with specialist peripatetic teachers for the instrument of their choice, the children will learn basic chords or drumming patterns/sequences and develop their understanding of how to play these, begin to read notation and learn to play basic songs.