



Music Policy

February 2022

Review date: September 2023

Subject Leader: Liz Beesley

Statement of intent

At Beckers Green, we strive to excite and engage our learners through topics which are selected to enhance their cultural capital. Historically in our community, the experiences of our children have been isolated to their local environment and it is therefore important that we seek to expand horizons within their school experiences. Our curriculum also includes many opportunities for children to understand the cultural importance of Braintree and its geographical and historical context.

We have used this knowledge of our pupils to create a curriculum that is ambitious for all and offers them learning that build on prior knowledge and understanding. Topics and lessons are sequenced carefully to ensure opportunities to revisit and activate prior knowledge are optimised in order to support pupils in transferring information to their long-term memory.

Pupils with additional needs have their needs met through high quality teaching (which may include scaffolded tasks, appropriate support and challenge) or through individualised curriculums where necessary.

Introduction

‘Having the opportunity to study and explore music is not a privilege; it is a vital part of a broad and ambitious curriculum. Therefore, we strive to provide a quality music education for their pupils, to ensure every child develops a life-long love of music and musical performance’ (adapted from Music Model Curriculum, DfE, 2021)

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It gives an opportunity for personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual. Music reflects our culture and society and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can be a highly academic and demanding subject. It is also important in helping children feel part of a community.

School aims

We aim to teach music to enable children to:

- Know and understand how sounds are made and organised into musical structures
- Know how music is made through a variety of instruments
- Know how music is composed and written down
- Know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written
- Develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music

National Curriculum aims

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- 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 inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Organisation

In order to ensure quality music teaching, we employ a tutor from Essex Music Services to teach music in years 1-6. We have a class set of glockenspiels for each lesson and also encourage children to bring their own descant recorders to school. Music is taught in a 45-minute lesson once per week by a music specialist.

In addition to this, we employ the services of a peripatetic music teacher who offers a variety of private lessons to children from all classes. Funding for this is provided by the parents, subsidised by Essex Music Services if applicable. We also take advantage of additional opportunities that arise throughout the year, which are deemed to be beneficial in supporting the teaching of music. In recent years, these have included: Young Voices concerts for the choir, additional whole-class instrument lessons, nurture music groups, choir performances in and around Braintree.

Opportunities for live music

- Singing assembly occurs bi-weekly and provides the backdrop to learn hymns and songs for special occasions and performances, e.g. Harvest and Christmas
- Children are encouraged to listen and appraise music weekly as enter the hall for Celebration Assembly. The music chosen is often relevant to current events.
- School performances – children in the foundation stage, year 3 and year 6 perform a production/extended assembly, which includes many musical aspects. Children in years 1, 2, 4 and 5 perform an annual assembly to parents which includes relevant songs. Additionally, at Christmas, the whole school produces a concert for parents.
- Choir is offered to children in KS2. The choir members perform throughout the year at school events, local and national events and at competitions. Choir rehearsals are weekly and organised by the music coordinator.

Planning (including differentiation, inclusion and evaluation)

At Beckers Green, we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build the confidence of all children. Across the school, children are encouraged to share learning experiences with their peers and to work collaboratively to produce the best outcomes.

We teach music to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of all children and take note of the targets set for individual children if appropriate.

New teaching is introduced in each key stage, with the second year focussing on the consolidation and perfecting of skills.

Resources

Every class has access to a Music Trolley, which houses a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments. There are enough tuned instruments for each child in a class to play during the lesson. Each classroom has the facility to play music and each teacher has full access to the resources provided by Charanga.

Assessment, recording and reporting

The specialist music teacher primarily assesses children termly against the objectives set out in the school curriculum. This is in conjunction with the class teacher as an observer. This is recorded on Curriculum Maestro and the subject leader uses this information to write a brief termly report and focus on actions for the following term.

Recordings are sometimes made in order to record and celebrate progress.

Monitoring

At Beckers Green we believe that the most effective way to monitor the impact of our Music policy is to utilise and triangulate a broad range of moderating activities, involve our stakeholders, and apply these regularly, consistently, and robustly.

Through our annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Review cycle, we employ the following monitoring activities in Music:

- Lesson observations and drop ins
- Data drop and subject leader data review: Using Target Tracker we use the termly data to inform our planning and areas we need to develop or support
- Governor visits. As part of the Governors' Monitoring, Evaluation and Review cycle, lead governors in each subject, make regular visits to school to monitor progress towards the school development plan
- Pupil voice. Senior staff, subject co-ordinators and governors take regular opportunities to listen to the views of pupils in relation to their experience of Music at our school and their feedback actively informs subject development through our curriculum action plan