

Music development plan summary: St Oswald's CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Emily Walton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jemma Dunne
Name of local music hub	York Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At St Oswald's CE Primary School, we strive to foster a curiosity and love of music that will remain with our pupils for the rest of their lives. Following the requirements of the National Curriculum, and informed by the Model Music Curriculum, our teaching provides a broad, balanced and differentiated approach to allow every child to develop their musical potential. Fundamental musical skills, vocabulary and knowledge are developed across the school through singing, playing, listening, appraising, composing and performing a diverse range of pieces from historical periods, cultural contexts and musical genres so that our pupils move into secondary education as musicians.

Music sits at the heart of our school community, forming an integral part of the daily routine, including our collective worship, cross-curricular lessons and the many special events in our school calendar. We teach our pupils to always encourage one another

and to be proud of their own musical achievements, and we regularly welcome peers, parents, staff and the local community to share and support their endeavours.

Our music curriculum ensures that pupils are exposed to a wide range of musical styles, genres and instruments in a practical and engaging manner. Whole class music lessons are taught across every year group during each half term. There is a clear progression of skills as children move through the school, allowing them to develop musical vocabulary and build proficiency and confidence in playing and singing. This structured programme includes high quality class teaching, weekly singing through whole school worship, regular concerts and performances, musical clubs and teaching from specialist music teachers.

The Golden Threads of Music:

1. Understanding musical context

The Charanga scheme is used creatively by teachers to complement topic work within our two-year rolling curriculum. This cross-curricular approach brings topic work to life and gives children an understanding of the development and importance of music throughout time and across cultures.

2. Listening and appraising

Throughout all units of work, children are taught to actively listen to and evaluate their own responses to pieces of music, with an emphasis placed on musical vocabulary. Our new initiative, 'St Oswald's 10 Pieces of Classical Music', introduces children to ten renowned classical composers.

3. Singing

Singing sits at the heart of our music curriculum and is celebrated through regular performances from each phase as well as bespoke singing units that form an integral part of our whole class lessons.

4. Playing musical instruments

Although we are proud of the range of musical instruments we have available for classroom use, we have chosen to focus on a select few to ensure that children develop their skills in a gradual and meaningful way. Untuned percussion gives our youngest children the opportunity to experiment with different rhythms before progressing on to the glockenspiel in Key Stage 1 and recorder in Key Stage 2. As well as this, children have the chance to play the African drums, gamelan and ukulele within their time at St Oswald's.

5. Improvising and composing

We want our children to move forward into secondary schools as musicians, which means teaching them the skills of improvising and composing their own music. This is facilitated through singing, rap, beatboxing and musical soundscapes as well as with tuned instruments.

6. Performing

Every child is given numerous opportunities to share their talents with friends, family and the wider community. Examples range from talent shows, solo performances and phase productions to regular events in collaboration with St Oswald's Church that celebrate the school's Christian ethos. These are hugely special occasions in the school calendar and give pupils the invitation to explore their own spirituality through the medium of music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Singing

Pupils in Year 1 and 2 have the opportunity to join our KS1 choir, 'St Oswald's Little Singers', led by members of staff. This includes a weekly rehearsal that focuses on sharing a love of singing and building the confidence to perform within the school and local community.

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 also have the opportunity to join our vibrant KS2 choir of over 60 children, who perform regularly at various community events as well as at the annual Young Voices concert in Sheffield.

Instrumental tuition

Children are given the valuable opportunity to have 1:1 tuition from peripatetic music teachers and many go on to take examinations in their chosen instrument. Current lessons include woodwind, brass, guitar and keyboard tuition. Children are invited to perform a solo, duet or small group performance at our annual 'Celebration of the Arts' evening.

Additional clubs

Throughout the year, we offer many additional clubs and opportunities. These are led by members of staff and are set up proactively in response to a particular area of interest within a year group. Previous examples have included a Musical Theatre Club and Recorder Club.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Collective Singing

At St Oswald's CE Primary School, we enjoy a weekly Singing Collective Worship led by members of staff where children from every year group come together to learn new songs. These are then performed at our weekly Celebration Collective Worship for friends and family.

We enjoy numerous whole school singing events across the year, including a 'St Oswald's Big Christmas Sing', carol concerts at St Oswald's Church, an Easter service, Harvest service and annual 'Celebration of the Arts' evening.

Within year group phases, there are countless opportunities for performances to other year groups as well as friends and family. These include topic-based songs, performances on instruments that have been played during whole class lessons, as well as musical theatre performances.

Visitors and Experiences

We work closely with York Music Hub to ensure that our pupils are able to experience a wide range of live musical performances from experts. These have included collaborations with the Fulford School, University of York, the Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment, Playground Proms and York Samba Drumming.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Fully embed our revised instrumental offer which should enable pupils to develop a deeper understanding and confidence in playing specific tuned instruments.
- Continue to seek additional opportunities for pupils to watch live music, including trips and visiting musicians. This will be achieved through continued collaboration with local groups such as the York Music Hub and places of further education.
- Continue to review and improve our offer for Pupil Premium families to ensure that more pupils are accessing additional musical opportunities.
- Further inspire our pupils through the work of renowned classical composers by fully embedding our 'St Oswald's Ten Pieces' programme.
- Provide increasing opportunities for children to improvise and compose their own pieces of music across a range of genres and styles, through high quality whole class teaching.