



Intent:

At St James CE Primary School, music is an essential part of everyday life. From our weekly music lessons to singing hymns, music is fundamental at St James. We ensure that music lessons allow children to learn about using voice, using instruments, notation and composition and offer our students the opportunity to take up an instrument through private tuition at the school. Through exposure to high quality and diverse musical examples, children are aware of how music varies across both cultures and the world and have the chance to experience composing and performing.

Implementation:

We teach the National Curriculum and the EYFS framework, supported by a clear knowledge and skills progression framework, using the Music Express scheme. We also pride ourselves on offering a wide range of musical experiences beyond the curriculum, such as visits, music tuition, performances and school choirs. All children have the opportunity to learn musical skills. They are able to do this practically, by being immersed in the vocabulary and also through excellent modelled examples. Over their time at St James, children gain experience in a wide range of tuned and untuned percussion as well as other instruments and become immersed in the culture of music at St James.

What does Teaching and Learning look like in EYFS

Nursery and Reception follow the Music Express scheme with one weekly dedicated lesson, however music is an engrained part of the school day in EYFS. Whether we are singing nursery rhymes, counting songs for our maths learning, or singing the 'line up' song, we know that singing is vital for early development and it is a core aspect of our provision.

In addition, our learning environment allows many opportunities for playing and experimenting with music. We have a box of good quality instruments, a range of glockenspiels and percussive instruments, for the children to enjoy. We also have an outdoor 'stage' which the children love to practice performing on!

What does Teaching and Learning look like in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2?

In KS1 and KS2, there is one weekly music lesson from the Music Express scheme. This covers the content of the national curriculum and follows a progression through the school years so that the children can build on their prior knowledge. However, as part of the wider musical culture of St James, opportunities are taken to integrate music into any subjects or topics which the children study as well – see 'Enrichment' for more.

Lesson Structure:



Assessment

We record our musical journey using Sway to document what we have done as a class. We also keep track of children who need additional support to access some of the content as well as identifying those who may have a talent in a particular area, to encourage further development.

Enrichment

The children in KS1 and KS2 are given a range of opportunities to make and enjoy music – whether this be playing music to dance to on the playground, or joining the St James Pop Up Choir that runs on Friday lunchtimes. All children have the opportunity to take up a musical instrument through private tuition, which is heavily discounted for our most vulnerable children. All children also partake in several musical projects, such as Young Voices or the VAT singing festival. There are also opportunities to enjoy pantomime and musical performances, such as our Christmas Carol Concert, as part of the broader offer of enrichment at St James.

SEND

We put our 'first 20%' at the heart of all areas of the curriculum to ensure inclusion for all. Additional support required is carefully considered to ensure possible barriers to learning music are overcome, for example:

- help in managing the written communication aspects of music – such as the use of symbols – by using larger print, colour codes, multi-sensory reinforcement, and a greater emphasis on aural memory skills
- encouragement to use their voices expressively and to use different forms of communication – such as gesture – to compensate for difficulties when singing and speaking
- opportunities to learn about music through physical contact with an instrument and/or sound source where they are unable to hear sounds clearly or at all, and
- access to adapted instruments or ICT to overcome difficulties with mobility or manipulative skills

Impact:

The impact of this curriculum design will lead to outstanding progress over time across key stages relative to a child's individual starting point and their progression of skills.

By the time pupils leave St James, they should have developed:

An understanding of the key 'building blocks' of music, a sense of musicianship, a love of learning. As well as having some great memories of making and enjoying music at primary school, we hope they may have discovered a new music genre or instrument they would not previously have been exposed to.

In order to ensure our aims have been met, we monitor teaching and learning through:

- A carefully planned cycle of lesson visits and pupil interviews.
- Assessing understanding of 'sticky' knowledge at the end of a unit and over time.
- Moderation by subject leader, alongside dialogue with class teachers.
- Sharing good practice in staff meetings and organising whole school CPD sessions.