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Music Policy

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Downview School: Music Policy

Introduction

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music supports the children in understanding the world in which we live. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

Aims

The aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- Know and understand how sounds are made and then 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, appreciating, and listening to music

Through Music we can also:

- Improve pupils' skills in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT
- Develop pupils' critical thinking skills
- Promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues
- Develop pupils as active citizens

Organisation of Music within the Curriculum

KS1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music

KS2

Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

In KS2 there is a progression of instruments learned from Year 3 to 6. The ukulele is taught in Year 3 where children learn to play and read chords, and to sing and play in a performance. In Year 4 children learn the recorder which includes the children learning to read notes on a staff. This is progressed further in Year 5 where the children learn to play the clarinet and finally in Year 6 children learn to play the alto saxophone.

Teaching & Learning - Strategies for the teaching of Music

The aim of teaching music in our school is to build up the confidence of every child and allow them to express themselves creatively. At Downview we make music an enjoyable learning experience, encouraging children to participate in a variety of musical experiences throughout their time here.

In Early Years the children are encouraged to choose their learning, exploring the sounds made by a wide range of percussion instruments. Throughout Key Stage 1 children continue to develop their awareness of sound and also begin to explore rhythm and making their own music. Children in Key Stage 2 currently have the opportunity to learn a wide range of musical skills through learning to play a variety of instruments. Children in Year 3 learn to play the ukulele, Year 4 children learn to play the recorder, Year 5 children learn the clarinet and in Year 6 the children learn to play the saxophone. AC Black Music Express books are still used for teaching in KS1 and KS2.

Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching and this is valued across Key Stages 1 and 2. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and listen to more extended pieces of music, in turn this supports them in developing independence in creating their own music. Our assembly structure and themes assist in the enrichment of the music curriculum. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch, these are often taught consecutively. The children learn how to work with others to make

music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them musical notation and how to compose music.

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Setting tasks that are suited to the child's ability so that they feel positive and enthusiastic about music
- Providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child

The role of the Music co-ordinator is to:

- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content and developing their skills in planning, teaching and assessing Music.
- Renew, update and oversee the audit of resources needed to deliver the curriculum
- Monitor and evaluate the learning and teaching of Music
- Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity
- Keep abreast of developments in the teaching and learning of Music

Assessment

At the end of each year, class teachers will assess their children in Music and complete a progression of skills document. In this document the teacher will assess against the key skills, whether children are working towards year group expectation, working at the expected level or working above the expected level for Music.

SEN

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 the children with learning difficulties, and our work in music takes into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Equal Opportunities

All pupils at Downview have equal access to the facilities available, regardless of gender or nationality. When working in groups the teacher ensures that children take turns and share the equipment fairly. Teachers also give pupils opportunities to work individually to complete tasks by themselves.

Resources

All music resources are kept in a central store accessible to all staff. Members of staff can request new musical resources each year from the music budget.

Health and Safety

Children are taught the correct way to handle instruments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The music subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and the quality of teaching in music. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of music, being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

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