

Matthew Arnold Primary School



Music Policy

Date: September 2024

Introduction

At Matthew Arnold Primary School, we are committed to providing a high-quality music education that inspires and engages all pupils. We believe that music is a powerful tool for personal development and enrichment, and we strive to create an environment where every pupil can achieve their musical potential.

Music education is a vital part of our well-rounded curriculum. We believe that engaging pupils in music helps to foster creativity, enhance cognitive abilities, and develop social skills. Our music policy aligns with the National Curriculum for music in primary schools and aims to provide a structured and supportive environment where every pupil can experience the joy of music.

Aims

Our 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; and
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

Learning Objectives

- To develop control and understanding of duration, pitch, tempo, timbre, texture, dynamics and structure.
- To communicate musical ideas to others.
- To improve instrumental and vocal techniques.
- To listen and appraise.
- To be able to sing and play from memory.

Teaching and Learning

In Matthew Arnold, we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. We use interactive and inclusive teaching methods to engage all pupils.

We seek to 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:

- Setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty
- Sometimes grouping children by ability and setting different tasks to each ability group;

- Providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child;

We use the Charanga music scheme to enhance learning experiences. Charanga gives staff high quality planning to follow as well as a list of key vocabulary for each year group. Using a planned scheme ensures that both musicians and non-musicians have the confidence, professional knowledge and tools to deliver exciting and progressive music lessons. Charanga is a flexible scheme which allows staff to adapt where appropriate for all needs and allows for more personalised teaching where necessary.

The Charanga Music World website is available to use for support material.

Our music planning is geared to three aspects of progress:

- increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
- increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities; and
- increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music making.

We offer wider opportunities, where our Key Stage 2 pupils learn how to play a ukulele and during the year will be given chances to showcase their new skills. These music lessons are delivered by a specialist music teacher from Resonate Liverpool Music Support Service.

Our teaching uses a range of resources, including a variety of musical instruments, including ukuleles for Years 3-6, sheet music, audio-visual materials, and music software. We ensure continuous assessment through observation, participation, and performance.

EYFS

We teach music in EYFS classes as an integral part of the work covered during the year. We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in 'Birth to 5 Matters' and the Early Learning Goals, which supports curriculum planning for children to age five.

The strand 'Expressive Arts and Design' provides children with opportunities to explore moving rhythmically, imitating movement to music, tapping out simple rhythms, experimenting with a range of different instruments and explaining and learning how sounds can be changes. In addition to this children sing songs, make music and experiment in different ways of changing them. Music ontributes to a child's personal and social development. Counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

Inclusion

In Matthew Arnold 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.

We ensure that all pupils, regardless of ability, have access to music education. All teaching includes adaptations and support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As part of

our promotion of equality and diversity we celebrate cultural diversity through the inclusion of music from various cultures and traditions.

All staff have regular training on approaches to consider when working with children with special educational needs.

Assessment and Recording

Teacher assessment is incorporated into class teachers' termly and weekly planning. We assess children's knowledge and understanding by questioning, listening and observation of performance in class as an on-going process. Evidence may be in the forms of audio, video recordings and photographs. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum level of attainment.

Curriculum Enhancement

- Choir: we have a choir at specific times of the year. At Christmas we have a choir and perform in the local area.
- KS1 pupils have the opportunity to visit the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic to experience a live orchestral performance.
- Assemblies: regular opportunities for pupils to perform in front of their peers.
- Performances – all pupils are involved in the KS1 nativity or KS2 carol performance.
- Children have the opportunity to take part in half termly concerts through the school's concert programme put together by Resonate; The Music Education Hub for Liverpool. Through this the children become familiar with a range of artists, musical genres and instruments in a fun and engaging way.
- Instrumental Lessons: Pupils are signposted to out of school activities delivered by Resonate Music Hub

Monitoring and Review

In Matthew Arnold we regularly review the music curriculum and policy to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils and aligns with the National Curriculum. We use feedback from pupils, parents, and staff to inform improvements and ensure continuous improvement and enrichment of the music curriculum.

We ensure teachers have ongoing professional development to keep up-to-date with the latest music education practices and resources

The music subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for 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.