



Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow.'

Music at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary & Nursery School

Intent

At Our Lady of Peace, Music plays an important part in our school life. Whether it is through learning about music during music lessons, singing hymns at assembly, discovering new music and songs at our Music Assemblies or listening to music as we work. Through music, children are able to develop and improve their language and reasoning skills, their memorization and coordination skills, as well as their creativity and imagination. Children experience a sense of achievement, increase their confidence and gain essential social and emotional skills. At Our Lady of Peace School, we believe that Music should be accessible to all, and we ensure that the curriculum and musical extra-curricular opportunities at our school reflect this.



Implementation

In Our Lady of Peace School, Music is delivered in dedicated weekly teaching time, which is planned and delivered by our specialist Music Teacher. Music lessons are planned using a combination of the online music teaching platform Charanga that follows the National Curriculum guidelines for music teaching in schools, as well as The BBC Ten Pieces programme, and units devised by our specialist Music Teacher. This combination is to ensure that our music curriculum is tailor-made to reflect the background and ethos of our children and our school, and links are made to other areas of the curriculum. Each half term focuses on a topic and children are exposed to a variety of musical genres and types of music.



The use of instruments is at the heart of all units of work, and we have three year groups enjoying whole class instrumental teaching: Recorders in year 2; Violins in year 3; and Ukuleles in year 4. We have worked hard to ensure a clear progression of the children's knowledge and skills, as well as an integrated, practical and exploratory approach to musical learning. Children are taught the interrelated dimensions of music that are weaved through all of the units to encourage the development of musical skills.



Each Unit of Work comprises of the different strands of musical learning:

1. Listening and Appraising
2. Musical activities such as games, singing, playing musical instruments, improvisation, composition)
3. Performing

In year 5 and 6 we also include Musical History, and we also expose the children to basic, formal notation from year 2, and add to this as they progress through the school, so that our children can go to secondary school with a good knowledge of basic, formal notation.

Every week, children attend a Gospel Assembly where hymns are sung in worship, and we also have a weekly differentiated Music Assembly in both Upper and Lower School, where we begin by listening to a chosen piece of music and we discuss listening questions. The pieces chosen reflect our range of influences at our school, including, religious choral music, music from other cultures, important composers through history and many are taken from the Model Music Curriculum. After listening, we learn a range of hymns and songs, focusing on accuracy of singing and performance, and putting into practise the interrelated dimensions of music. These assemblies also provide a space for performing, whether that be the choir sharing something they have been working on, or a class sharing their work.

We have two school choirs, one for Lower Key stage and one for Upper Key stage, both led by our specialist Music Teacher. The choirs are large with a lot of children attending. We learn songs from a range of different genres, and work towards performances. We perform in and out of school, such as at school fetes and opportunities provided by the Slough Music Service, such as our performance at Eton College Chapel.



Impact

Through careful planning, and taking into account the needs and background of our school community, we have devised a curriculum which reflects the ethos of our school. This curriculum also ensures progression across the school, with regards to vocabulary, listening choices, notation, instrumental teaching, composition, the interrelated dimensions of music and performance. By having a strong focus on listening across the school and exposing children to a wider range of music, they can be inspired and have access to music they might not otherwise hear. Through our link with the Slough Music Service and our specialist Music Teacher, the children are able to experience hands-on

instrumental music teaching, which brings the music to life. The Slough Music Service also offers our children the opportunity to learn an instrument of their choice and take what they have learnt further.

As a result of being exposed to a range of musical styles and genres in their listening, and being encouraged to discuss and describe their listening, our children are developing a musical vocabulary with which to appraise music and make musical choices. By being taught how to sing and play accurately, and being given opportunities to perform, the quality of our children's performances has greatly improved. The profile of music in our school is high, our children notice music and ask questions about what they can hear, the instruments they discover and the composers and musicians they listen to. Our children understand that music is for everyone, and is to be explored and enjoyed. Our choirs, which rehearse at lunchtimes so that anyone can take part, learn to sing together and build accuracy in their singing and performance skills, but also a great sense of achievement from opportunities to perform. They are proud to be members of our choirs, and show great dedication and commitment to practise.

