



Guyhirn Church of England Primary School & Pre-school

Member of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust

This policy was ratified in:	May 2016
Reviewed:	March 2024 January 2025
To be reviewed:	January 2026

Music Policy

Our Vision

Agape – To live, to learn, to love together

Through our Christian values we aim to inspire all of our school community to show equality and tolerance to all in a safe, challenging environment.

Developing resilient, aspirational and compassionate individuals who are enthused by all faiths and lifestyles showing faith and belief in one another.

“Live in agreement with one another. Do not be proud but ready to mix with everyone. Do not think yourself better than others.” - Romans 12:16

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it out.” - Proverbs 18:15

“Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbour as yourselves.” - Matthew 22:37

Our Values

We are a small, family centered Church of England Primary School that is committed to promoting our Christian values of Thankfulness, Compassion, Creativity, Peace, Hope, Endurance, Forgiveness, Tolerance, Kindness, Respect, Trust and Friendship each linked with the core value of Love.

We are determined to create an inclusive culture of learning where everyone will be challenged in their thinking, to succeed to the best of their abilities and strive to become lifelong learners.

We will empower our children to become respected citizens to enable them to make valuable contributions locally, globally and to contribute to our world's sustainable future.

Introduction

Music contributes to a broad and balanced arts provision for all pupils and is taught as part of the National Curriculum. It will outline the purpose, nature and management of how music is taught in our school and will inform new teachers of expectations.

Aims and objectives

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians;

Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence;

Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

It is the aim of this policy that the needs of all children are met so they can reach their full potential in music and enhance their understanding of related subjects such as dance. Pupils should be enabled to grow in their awareness of music and the ground should be laid for the further development of skills in the future. In order for children to fulfil their full potential, a music specialist teaches music lessons across the school.

Music is a unique way of communicating which can both inspire and motivate children. At Guyhirn C of E Primary School, staff members encourage children to be creative, imaginative and responsive. Music provides the opportunity for personal expression and it can play an integral part in the personal development of an individual. Music reflects our culture and society and the teaching and learning of it enables children to better understand the world in which they live. It is also important in helping children to feel that they are part of a community.

Music is a subject which complements and supports other areas of the curriculum. It is known to improve children's memory, concentration, co-ordination and confidence.

At Guyhirn C of E Primary School, we provide many opportunities for children to experiment for themselves and contribute to the musical life of the school. All children are involved in performances, which enhance self-esteem.

Curriculum organisation

EYFS and KS1

Music for EYFS students has a primary focus on singing and movement, developing the student's listening abilities, physical co-ordination, inner/outer ears, motor-neuron skills, memory, aural awareness, and singing skills.

In EYFS and KS1, we currently use the Music Express two year rolling scheme of work for music as the basis for our curriculum planning. The Music Express scheme builds upon prior learning. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

The Music Express scheme of work links to the objectives in the 2014 National Curriculum. Teachers also have access to other ideas and resources and are expected to adapt any published materials used to meet the needs of their pupils.

We also encourage cross-curricular links, ensuring music is taught as a holistic part of the curriculum where possible. Children are also given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the styles, genres, history and traditions of music through the creative thematic approach taught in KS1.

KS2

The Music National Curriculum is delivered through the activities of performing, listening, appraising and composing. Lessons seek to provide a balanced programme that ensures the children progress from year to year.

All children have the opportunity to learn instruments within their lessons. EYFS and Year 1 learn percussion instruments and ocarinas. Children in Year 2,3 and 4 learn glockenspiels and percussion instruments. Children in Year 5 and 6 learn Ukuleles and Recorders.

Children are actively encouraged to read music as well as playing by ear and from memory. Music is taught weekly throughout the year by teachers and provides strong links to other areas of the curriculum where possible, particularly through singing and composition.

The emphasis is upon performing, composing, listening and appraising. Through these activities, pupils develop their skills as performers and as informed members of an audience. Using a range of instruments, children are able to experiment and links are made between this and pupils' previous musical experience, ensuring progression. Pupils may work as a class, in groups or individually in these lessons.

Listening to recorded music is an important aspect of every lesson. At times the music selected may take foundation topics into account, but musical progress is paramount. Pupils have chances to compose using the same programme and various internet

websites. Throughout Years 4, 5 and 6, children are taught about major composers and significant historical periods in music (eg: baroque). They also learn about music from other cultures.

The National Curriculum for music offers opportunities for performance and pupils are encouraged to present their work with an audience in mind. Other children, who are the audience, are encouraged to listen attentively with consideration for performers. Compositions may be recorded and performed in class, in assembly or as part of other performances for children and parents.

Teaching and Learning

Our children are given as much practical experience of music as possible, supported by factual, informative teaching. The children have access to regular opportunities to learn about and explore music through performing, composing, listening and appraising. We provide all pupils with a supportive atmosphere in which to develop their music skills.

Pupils are 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.

We offer learning opportunities that build on pupils' previous experiences. Children can link their experiences of composition to those listening to recorded or live music and learn with confidence and curiosity about the music of various ages and origins.

Children who already receive more formal instrumental tuition, often from peripatetic staff at school, are happy to improvise and compose using their instrument, or any other instruments.

Where possible, and where relevant, links should be made to other curriculum areas. Links should only be made, when the links will enrich the music curriculum.

Roles and responsibilities of the subject leader

To support and guide the practice of the music specialist;

To ensure coverage, continuity and progression in planning;

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of music teaching and learning;

To update documentation where necessary;

To produce action plans for the School Development Plan, prepare bids and manage the music budget effectively;

To liaise and consult with outside agencies where appropriate;

To prepare and lead INSET;

To attend relevant INSET training;

To review regularly the contribution made by music to a meaningful curriculum;

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Music plays an important part in the life of our school. It is available to every child and all children take part in musical activities; making a positive contribution to the life of the school and local community. Activities both within and outside the classroom are planned in a way that encourages full and active participation by all children, matched to their knowledge, understanding and previous experience. Children have equal opportunities to develop their understanding and enjoyment of music regardless of race, gender and ability. Equal emphasis will be given to the roles of both girls and boys in music. Every effort will be made to ensure that activities are equally interesting to both genders.

Music from all cultures is valued and teachers ensure that all pupils have access to resources that do not contain racial or ethnic stereotypes. Teachers ensure that the curriculum is appropriate for the needs of the children. Opportunities for music making and performing in public are made available to all, on occasions such as concerts and special celebrations. These help to develop feelings of self-worth and identity. Using pupil premium we actively encourage disadvantaged pupils to learn an instrument and we provide free tuition and free instrument hire.

In catering for our gifted and talented pupils, we provide them with the challenge and support they need to maximise their potential through teaching and learning activities that specifically cater for their above average musical needs. In this way, we offer opportunities for enrichment and extension activities in existing music lessons.

Resources

There is a large selection of instruments available at Guyhirn C of E Primary School. The school is committed to expanding present equipment wherever necessary and possible, and to organising human and physical resources, with the aim of motivating both staff and pupils to take part in musical activities.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the safety of the children during the lesson by instructing them in the safe and appropriate use of any equipment. The school as a whole is responsible for the general care of the instruments during the lesson by instructing the children in the correct use of the instruments and by replacing them safely after use. The music specialist should report damage to instruments to the Music Leaders as soon as possible.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our pupils is of great importance. Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed in order to ensure our children's safety:

Instruments will be checked regularly to ensure that they are in good repair and of good quality. All splintered or rusty instruments will be thrown away immediately.

Children who are taught to play a wind instrument will have an individually labelled instrument and so there will be no need for sharing.

Wind instruments (e.g. recorders) will be sterilized before they are reissued to other pupils.

Heavy instruments will be stored at an easily accessible height which will prevent the need for any climbing.