

# MUSIC CURRICULUM STATEMENT – St Peter’s Primary School



*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”*

— Plato

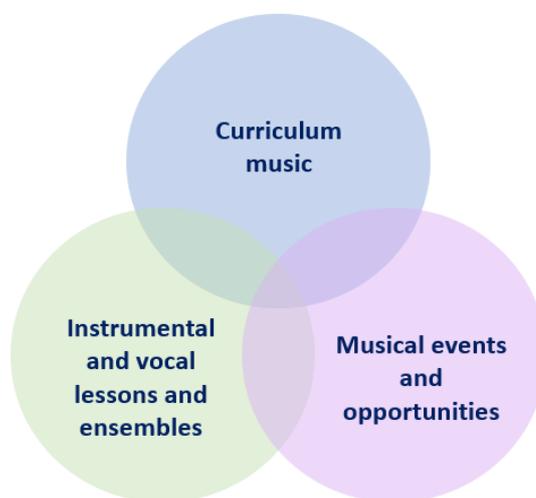
## CURRICULUM INTENT

At St Peter’s we aim to engage and inspire children to **develop a lifelong love of music**.

- We aim to provide a curriculum that is **practical**, where children learn about music through making music
- We aim to provide children with **high quality musical experiences**, where music making has purpose, is valued and celebrated, and where aspirations and expectations are high
- We aim to provide a curriculum that develops the musical skills of **performing, composing and listening** in a sequence of progressive units of work, allowing all children to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- We aim to ensure that there are **no barriers to participation and learning**, allowing all children to experience the joys of making music, as well as supporting children’s wider development, well-being and emotional health

This is achieved through a combination of our curriculum and co-curricular provision, and the musical events and opportunities that we offer children.

### Our Aim:



By the end of Y6, all children should:

- be able to **sing with accurate pitch** in unison or harmony, with attention to phrase and dynamics
- be capable of **playing a simple melody** on an instrument in an ensemble, and to learn it from staff notation
- be able to **create short phrases of new melodic music**
- have experience of a **range of music** from different cultures, traditions and contexts
- be able to **respond to and talk about music**, using appropriate musical language and showing an understanding of the musical elements
- increasingly **enjoy both their music lessons and take part in the wider musical life of the school**

## IMPLEMENTATION

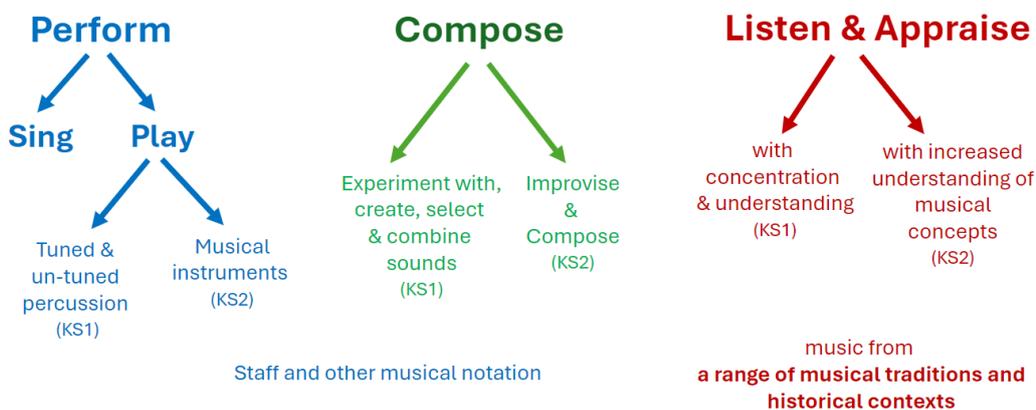
### Delivery and Overview

At St Peter's, the music curriculum is taught through weekly 50-minute class music lesson for every child. In KS1 and KS2, this is delivered by the Music Lead – an experienced primary classroom teacher and music specialist. Year 4 have whole class instrumental lessons (Listen2me) delivered by Hampshire Music Service. The Early Years music curriculum is delivered by EYFS staff through direct teaching and continuous provision.

We have a designated music room, which is well resourced with a range of musical instruments.

### Curriculum Design

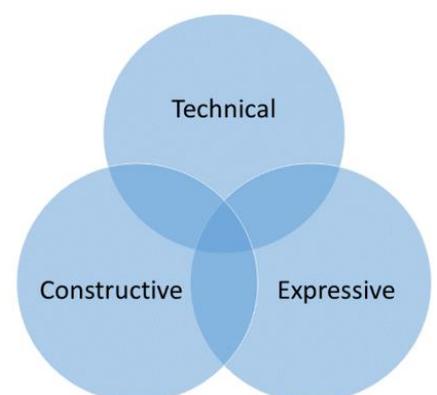
We deliver a carefully planned sequence of learning which builds clear progression (*see curriculum map and progressive skills development overview*). This sequence of learning is based on the Model Music Curriculum and builds on children's ability to perform, compose, listen and understand music.



The musical elements (*pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure*) form the core to children's musical knowledge and understanding. In Early Years and KS1, this begins with developing children's musicianship in controlling beat, rhythm and pitch. As children move up the school, a series of practical and creative activities provide the opportunity to explore the musical elements further. Children learn how to both manipulate and control the musical elements, and make connections between them.

### **Pillars of Progression:**

Our curriculum supports children's development in the technical, constructive and expressive components of music. They learn the technical skills of controlling sound and using staff notation. They explore how music is constructed through learning about the musical elements and the components of composition. They learn about the expressive aspects of music through exploring musical quality, creativity and musical meaning.



**Performance:**

The learning environment at St Peter's is one of practical music making, where every child has the opportunity to express themselves musically. Singing is an integral part of the curriculum, as we believe that this is one of the most accessible forms of music making and, when built carefully into the curriculum, singing provides a high level of learning opportunities and enjoyment for all pupils.

Children are also all given the chance to develop their technical control of an instrument. We have resourced music so that all children can play instruments in a whole class setting, gaining valuable musical skills through performing both independently and as part of an ensemble. At St Peter's this begins in the classroom on tuned and un-tuned percussion, and leads to developing keyboard skills, as well as experiencing other more traditional instruments as part of the Listen2me provision and in the co-curricular offer of instrumental lessons.

We believe that children are motivated by performance opportunities, where they can share and celebrate their achievements. The curriculum is therefore designed so that children's learning has a clear and meaningful purpose, with performance opportunities and memorable musical experiences built into each unit of work.

**Composition:**

Children are encouraged to be creative in their music making, with regular opportunities to improvise and compose. Technical aspects of composition are explicitly taught, allowing children to make creative and informed decisions about their music making within given structures, and to gain a better understanding of how music is constructed.

**Listening:**

Pupils are provided with quality and active listening opportunities, which are embedded within the curriculum and provide a sense of context and purpose for their learning.

We incorporate a range of active listening activities to build children's knowledge and understanding of the musical elements. Through this, children are also exposed to a range of musical culture, history and tradition. Children are also encouraged to describe and discuss music, where they are taught to consider the composer's musical intent and impact of the music, using a fluent musical vocabulary with reference to the musical elements, and considering the context and purpose of the music. This understanding is then transferred back into their own performing and composing.

**Notation and Technology:**

Through their time at St Peter's, children build an understanding of musical notation to support their musical learning, beginning with simple graphic notation and symbols, and building progressively towards reading and using staff notation. We also use technology appropriately as a vehicle for the development of musical understanding.

**Planning & Assessment:**

Planning is flexible and responds to children's needs. Activities are adapted to ensure that children with SEND can participate and progress, and more-able children are stretched and challenged through carefully planned activities, questions and differentiated tasks and musical parts. Assessment is responsive and immediate, as the teacher continually assesses the children's musical skill and understanding throughout the lesson, providing in the moment feedback. The teacher will continually check whether children are ready to move onto the next stage in their learning, and adjusts teaching accordingly.

There are carefully planned formal assessment points throughout the year, where children are measured against age related expectations. These form a bigger picture of children's achievement and progress throughout their time at St Peter's. We continually assess the effectiveness of our curriculum as a whole; reviewing and improving planning as needed.

## **Extra-Curricular**

We provide a breadth of musical opportunities that are not just confined to the classroom but span much of school life, where children's musical learning is supported and furthered outside of class curriculum lessons.

### **Instrumental lessons:**

All children in KS2 are offered instrumental lessons. We currently have approximately 140 children learning an instrument in school.

Children can learn the following instruments:

- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, recorder)
- Brass (trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, baritone, French horn)
- Strings (violin, cello)
- Percussion (drum kit, tuned percussion)
- Guitar
- Piano & Keyboard
- Singing

Lessons are provided by Hampshire Music Service specialist teachers and are taught in pairs or small groups for 20 minutes each week. Lessons cost £93 per term, but where students qualify for Pupil Premium or free school meals, lessons are either subsidised or fully funded.

### **Ensembles:**

We run a School Band, where children can deepen and extend their musical learning and gain valuable musical experiences of making music together. This is a mixed instrumental ensemble of approximately 40 KS2 children, who rehearse after school for an hour every week. Our Worship Band consists of some of our more-able instrumentalists, who rehearse weekly before school and regularly play in our school liturgies and masses. At certain points in the year we run a School Choir at lunchtimes, who sing at planned events. We also hold weekly whole school singing practices, where all children develop their vocal skills and experience the joy of singing together.

### **Productions:**

We believe that singing and musical theatre is an excellent tool for musical engagement and participation from all children. One of the highlights of our school year is our KS2 Production, where children put on a collaborative performance at the end of the summer term. Here every child takes a place on the stage to perform, led by the year 6s who take on the main roles. This is rehearsed during lesson time, as well as at lunchtimes and in after school rehearsals for our main Y6 cast.

Past performances have included: *The Lion King*, *Matilda!* *Jungle Book*, *Aladdin*, *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oliver!* *Annie!* and *Seussical the Musical*.

### **Partnerships:**

We work in partnership with other organisations to excite and invigorate music making and musical experiences for the pupils. For example, we work closely with Hampshire Music Hub, who provide a supportive and enthusiastic team of instrumental teachers, as well as whole class instrumental tuition for Y4. The Music Hub also support the professional development and training of our school staff. We also have strong musical links with Winchester University, Winchester College and Kings School.

### **Concerts & Performances:**

Beyond the curriculum, we put on regular performances and concerts throughout the school year, providing platforms to celebrate and share children's achievements. All children regularly perform in class assemblies, liturgies and masses throughout the year. Both Key Stages lead an Advent Liturgy, allowing our wider school community to come together to share the Christmas story through song, music, readings and prayer. Our annual KS2 Production is a popular event attended by the whole school community over four separate performances. We also have an annual Spring Concert, where the school band, choir and solo instrumentalists perform. Our school choir annually sing at the Winchester University Graduation Ceremony at Winchester Cathedral. Children make visits to perform at the local Care Home and perform at our annual school fete.

### **Concerts & Live Music**

Children have the opportunity to hear quality live music, for example Winchester College regularly bring ensembles to St Peter's to perform, and we attend their orchestra concerts for schools. We are also developing stronger links with Kings Secondary School and make visits to watch their performances.

### **Children's Wider Development**

At St Peter's, music is integrated in all its forms throughout school life and supports children's wider development. Music is an important part of the spiritual experiences for children. Children actively participate in school masses and liturgies by singing, playing in our Worship Band, and using music as a tool for reflection, worship and prayer.

Music supports and invigorates learning in all areas of the curriculum, as well as being a tool to aid transitions and support well-being and emotional health. Through music children also develop their physical coordination, resilience and perseverance. They build community, confidence and self-esteem, as well as learning the joys and discipline of working with a common collaborative purpose.

## **IMPACT**

At St Peter's, pupil involvement and enjoyment in music is key. Music is respected in all of its forms throughout school life, creating a strong culture of music making throughout the school. Achievement and musical competence is therefore of a very high standard, where a significant number of children exceed national age-related expectations in music. This can be demonstrated through our key assessment points throughout the school year.

The quality of provision is monitored through the school's annual professional development cycle, where the Music Lead's performance is reviewed. The Music Lead also has a regular profession dialogue with HMS and with the Early Year's team to ensure quality provision throughout the school.

Music has a high profile throughout the school, and can be demonstrated not just by the high quality of music making in the classroom but also in a range of musical events throughout the school year, such as our annual whole school production, concerts, assemblies and liturgies. Musical achievements are recognised and celebrated, and participation in extra-curricular musical activities is high. Over half the children in KS2 learn an instrument and children throughout the school children actively participate in musical events and opportunities.

This can all be evidenced through pupil conferencing and shown by the numbers participating in the musical life of the school. Parents are supportive and positive about the musical life of the school, several of whom actively engage by fundraising, accompanying and helping to rehearse the children.

Through all of these it is clear that music is enjoyed and valued, and children's confidence and competence in making music is strong.

