



Policy Title	Music Policy	Version	2.0
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## Music Policy

### Our Vision

Through a positive caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential in music. Every child at Slimbridge Primary School engages in quality music education from their entry into school until the end of KS2 in Year 6. In the Early Years, music is incorporated consistently into daily routines and is used to enhance teaching of the core curriculum in addition to being taught as a stand-alone subject. In KS1 and KS2, pupils participate in a weekly one hour curriculum music lesson with a Music specialist teacher.

### Aims and objectives

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it 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 enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also 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.

The objectives of teaching music at Slimbridge Primary School 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 and appreciating music.

### **Teaching and learning style**

At Slimbridge Primary School 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. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. 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 to and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer, and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces.

### **Additional music teaching**

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic teachers at Slimbridge offer; piano, voice, violin, clarinet, flute, recorder, guitar, drums and all brass instruments. Parents who want their children to participate in peripatetic lessons must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. Music lessons are also available for PP children. These lessons are taught on a 1 to 1 or small group basis for between 20 and 30 minutes depending on age, concentration, skill level and ability. This is, in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, but usually takes place during curriculum time. The music teacher has been developing WCET (Whole class ensemble teaching) over the last year and the school has purchased a class set of ukuleles to

enable this to happen. Throughout their time at Slimbridge children will have 2 x 10 week blocks of Ukulele lessons.

### **Music curriculum planning**

Slimbridge Primary School uses the National Curriculum for music as the basis for curriculum planning. 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. A spiral curriculum of constantly revisiting the Interrelated Dimensions of Music is adopted. The music scheme is a broad curriculum with a wide variety of resources taken from Active Music (a Kodaly approach to music teaching), Charanga, Musical Concepts, Classical 100, BBC 10 pieces, printed material and online material.

All musical learning is built around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. These dimensions are at the centre of all learning; they are the musical building blocks. This is an integrated approach to musical learning where games, the interrelated dimensions of music, singing and playing instruments are all linked (spiral of learning).

The Scheme of Work developed by the Music teacher enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills.

Musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear. The strands of musical learning, presented within the lesson plans and resources, are part of the learning spiral. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Repeating a musical skill doesn't necessarily mean their progress is slowing down or their development is moving backwards, it's just shifting within the spiral. Mastery means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

### **The contribution of music to teaching in other curriculum areas**

## English

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Children develop their language skills through singing songs, with attention to diction, meaning, rhythm and rhyme. Music is also used to stimulate discussion or creative writing. Through working with others in a musical setting, children develop their ability to communicate ideas effectively

## Mathematics

The teaching of music contributes to students' mathematical understanding in a variety of ways. Children who study the structure of music are observing patterns and processes. Rhythm and structure of music are mathematically based.

## PSHE and Fundamental British Values

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of PSHE, SMSC and Fundamental British Values. Through the common goal of making music, children learn to work effectively with other people and to build good relationships. Music is the basis of many social activities, and has an important role to play in the personal development of many young people. It has a vital role to play in building self-confidence. Participation in successful public musical performances is sometimes one of the most memorable events pupils participate in during school years.

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Creating, performing or listening to music can sometimes be a moving and even spiritual experience. At Slimbridge, we encourage children to reflect on the important effect music has on people's moods, senses and quality of life, and how music can be used to express the aforementioned. Children at Slimbridge have the opportunity to encounter music from many cultures and, through their growing knowledge and understanding of music, they become more accepting towards other cultures and societies.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage**

We teach music in Class 1 as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. The class teachers regularly integrate music into the daily routines with counting songs, tidying up songs, lining up songs etc. As the reception class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Music contributes 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.

### **Assessment for learning**

Children demonstrate their ability in music using a range of skills centred around the interrelated dimensions of music. The music teacher will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as she observes the children during lessons. 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, and records this progress. Written assessments do not take place.

### **Resources**

We keep resources for music in a central store in the Hall cupboards. This includes a wide range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, 20 ukuleles. There is an electric piano for the teaching of 1 to 1 piano lessons outside the Willow Room.

### **The school's musical events**

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have a weekly singing assembly run by a music specialist. Singing forms the basis of all festivals and celebrations throughout the year, children at Slimbridge Primary School perform with confidence and musicality and these are often the highlight of the school calendar.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for budding musicians to perform for the school community. This includes solo, ensemble and school

orchestra performances as part of assemblies and concerts. This recognises their achievements and celebrates their success.

Children have the opportunity to perform at Harvest Festival, Christmas Celebration Concert, Infant Nativity, Easter celebrations, Young Voices Concert series, Hamfields Children's Charity Concert, Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts, Summer Music Concert and the End of Year Drama Production.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The subject is led and taught by the Head of Music and each year time is set aside to review standards and monitor curriculum provision and ensure training and resources are up to date. Slimbridge Primary School currently hold a school Arts Mark Award.

Sarah Carter

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