

## Oak Field School Music Policy

**Reviewed May 2019**

**To be Reviewed May 2021**

### **Philosophy**

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.” (DfE 2013)

Music at Oak Field is focussed on three key areas: Listening, Performing and Composing. Pupils study all genres of music from a variety of cultures and from different periods of time. Work in music encompasses a variety of differentiated activities and instrumental work as well as the use of technology.

The school recognises that music can play a very important role in the development of the pupils, including influencing the improvement of listening, communication, problem solving, critical thinking skills and motor skills. We believe that music can enable the pupils to think and express themselves creatively and help them to learn to relate to others socially and culturally. All pupils’ opinions and choices are valued and all are free to express themselves as they wish.

### **Aims**

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.

### **Aims**

At Oak Field School we aim to:

1. Promote and support curriculum music for all children as an entitlement through their classroom experiences and follow the National Curriculum.
2. Provide experiences and resources which promote knowledge, skills and understanding in music.
3. Provide learning experiences in music, which promote confidence and development of the pupil.
4. Promote a music curriculum with appropriate differentiated experiences.
5. Promote progression and continuity in music through careful curriculum planning and monitoring, in line with the school's policies for assessment and recording.

6. Promote opportunities for the pupils to develop their musical skills outside of lesson time.
7. Promote the continuing development of expertise and confidence in music for all members of the teaching staff.
8. Recognise ways in which IT skills may be incorporated into, and developed by the music curriculum and used to enhance the musical experiences of all our pupils.

### **Objective**

All pupils to experience Music each week either with their class teacher or the music teacher.

### **Knowledge Skills and Understanding:**

Pupils' musical experiences will regularly include Performing, Composing and Listening activities.

Pupils will develop musical and technical skills through a variety of musical activities and the use of a wide range of resources.

Pupils will develop an understanding of the elements of music and their appropriate application.

Pupils will perform their own compositions and the works of others to a variety of audiences both in Music and in Performing Arts (such as other children/classes/year groups, school, parents, and the wider community).

Pupils will develop knowledge of music of different times, places and diverse cultures. Pupils will regularly listen to and appraise their own work as well as the work of their peers.

### **Personal Development:**

Pupils' work will be appraised via recording and performance. Pupils will be encouraged to develop a 'critical ear' and learn from their composing and performing experiences.

### **4. Differentiation:**

Differentiated tasks and resources will be used to match the ability of the pupil to enable all to succeed in Music irrespective of the level they are working at.

### **5. Extended Curriculum:**

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in Music activities outside of their scheduled lesson. A choir meets once a week during taught time.

Accreditation for music is attained through a performance skills qualification using the WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee). Students are required to learn and perform to short contrasting pieces. Music also forms part of the new Performing Arts OCR course. There is also the chance for students to take graded performance exams with London College of Music.

Early years at Oak Field benefit from a sensory lunchtime club in which students who vocalise have the opportunity to sing expressively together, aptly named 'Voices without Words'. They also have a lunchtime singing club.

### **Cross- Curricular**

Music is seen both as a subject in its own right and very much as a cross-curricular subject. It is important that all staff feel confident to integrate music into the broader curriculum. There is an

expectation that the Music teacher will work closely with all colleagues to support their learning and confidence.

### **7. Staff Development:**

Staff will be kept up to date with current requirements and other issues. Staff will receive training and support from the Music Teacher. The Music Teacher will also be responsible for all resources, including the ordering, storage and maintenance and of all materials (both written resources and instruments).

### **Organisation**

Currently Music at Oak Field is taught by a Music specialist as a subject in its own right. It is the responsibility of the Music Teacher to collate policy, curriculum materials and other related areas.

### **Monitoring**

The music planning is monitored by the Head Teacher, with schemes of work for all years being submitted three times a year as well as three lesson plans per term for feedback.

### **Assessment and Recording**

Throughout the year the Music Teacher records the pupils' progress through 'P' levels / National Curriculum levels using Classroom Monitor. Much of the pupils' work is recorded as evidence of the pupils' progress and are available to class teachers and for inspection.

### **Reporting**

An annual review is provided by the Music Teacher for parents as well as parents having the opportunity to speak to the Music Teacher at Parents evenings.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school aims to maintain equal opportunities for each child regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, age or social background within the music curriculum. It also aims to promote pupils self-esteem by valuing all pupils contributions and to encourage and motivate all pupils to achieve their full potential.

- Ethnic minority interests and issues are addressed throughout the Music curriculum.
- Steps are taken to promote cultural diversity and challenge racism throughout the Music curriculum.
- The planning process ensures that the skills, experience and expertise of people from local ethnic minority communities are utilised whenever possible within the Music curriculum.
- Teaching styles are adapted to suit pupils' various learning styles.
- Pupils from different ethnic backgrounds are actively encouraged to work together in the classroom.
- The Music curriculum draws on the cultural backgrounds and experiences of all pupils.
- Prejudice, bias and discrimination are challenged within the Music environment.
- All books and other media are checked for their suitability for different groups of pupils.
- Positive images of people from various ethnic groups and their cultural backgrounds are displayed in school.
- The school also aims to reflect the cultural and ethnic backgrounds within the musical experience provided through a variety of different forms such as visiting musicians, listening to a variety of music and performing music from different cultures.

## **Information Technology**

ICT within the Music curriculum is an important element of learning. The music room has an interactive whiteboard and a variety of studio equipment and resources. The pupils also have access to iPads for use in music making activities. The pupils currently use keyboards, CD recorders and microphones.

## **Finance**

Each year, music is allocated an allowance from the whole school budget. It is the responsibility of the Music Teacher to manage this and purchase equipment and resources as necessary to enhance the teaching and learning throughout the music curriculum.

## **Health and Safety**

The music curriculum operates within the school Health and Safety Policy.

- Instruments are put away carefully after each session
- Instruments are stored appropriately according to size, weight and shape
- Pupils are encouraged to take care when transporting instruments
- Children are taught to handle all instruments with care and respect
- Extra care is taken with electronic equipment and children's attention drawn to the potential dangers posed by electric sockets, plugs and cables and the misuse of electronic instruments
- Appropriate steps are taken to ensure hygienic use of wind instruments such as Flute.

## **Resources**

Oak Field has a wide variety of Music resources which staff are entitled to use in their own lessons. Each class has a box of simple musical instruments for use in class.