

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

# Music Policy

Co-ordinators: Leonie May

Last review: 2023

Next review: 2026



**"Be Responsible, be fair, stay positive and care"**

## **John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes Music Policy**

### **VALUE STATEMENT**

We value music education because it is a unique form of communication and expression. Through exposure to music we aim to develop aesthetic sensitivity and creative ability in all pupils.

At John Ruskin School we seek to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music, to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Music is a valuable subject which offers children of all abilities and backgrounds the opportunity to make music with others and the chance to 'shine', which may not always be the case in their other subjects.

These experiences include developing awareness of different cultures and traditions through their music; broaden understanding of a wide variety of musical styles and offering children the opportunity to experience personal satisfaction through making music alone and with others.

The opportunities provided, will help children to understand and appreciate their musical heritage and introduce them to the understanding and enjoyment of new or unfamiliar music through an active involvement in listening, appraising, composing and performing.

### **AIMS**

At John Ruskin School we aim to provide:

- A worthwhile and enjoyable musical experience through active listening and participation
- Access to instrumental learning opportunities
- Opportunities to develop musical knowledge, concepts, skills and evoke a creative response to music through experiencing and experimenting with sound through; listening, appraising, performance, singing and composing
- The opportunity for children to use appropriate (music) technology
- Children with the chance to experience the expressiveness of music
- Opportunities that encourage a sensitive response
- Opportunities to become aware of musical traditions and cultural similarities and differences
- Musical opportunities that encourage children to develop awareness, appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of music.
- Awareness that music can support the development of certain social skills such as sharing, participation, co-operation, self-esteem, self-image and decision making

## **MUSIC AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM**

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
- Sing and use their voices
- Create and compose music on their own and with others
- Have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- Use technology appropriately
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated including through the inter-related dimensions

In order to deliver the National Curriculum objectives successfully, a range of experiences is offered to all children, together with opportunities to develop particular skills and techniques.

## **TEACHING & LEARNING AND GENERAL ORGANISATION**

Children engage in a range of music activities weekly. The school uses a music scheme provided by Southwark Music. These align with the Early Learning Goals and National Curriculum Aims. KS1 and KS2 are taught every second week in the music room with the music teacher. EYFS and the Language Unit are taught weekly. All classes engage in choral practice weekly to enhance their singing opportunities through vocal exercises alongside learning and practising new songs. Teachers can supplement these learning opportunities with Spark Yard and other musical materials the school has at any given time. Wherever possible, Music is linked to other areas of the curriculum. There are upper and lower school singing assemblies that take place at least once every half term.

We aim to encourage a wide range of teaching styles, including whole-class instruction, individual development and group work.

There are instrumental teachers for recorder and ukulele lessons. These lessons take place inside and outside of school time, for small groups of children.

## **SEND, DIFFERENTIATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Music is broad and 'open-ended', providing opportunities to solve problems, to work independently and as a group. All children should have the opportunity to participate fully in classroom music lessons and activities. Most musical activities work well as class lessons and are appropriate for all children of any ability. Where appropriate, musical material/resources may be adapted where appropriate to meet the needs of the learners. Work will have a range of entry points so that all pupils can participate according to their skill level.

## **MULTICULTURAL THEMES**

John Ruskin School reflects the richness and diversity of today's multicultural society through a broad representation of nationality and culture. Throughout the music scheme we include a global dimension by encouraging the use of instruments and lesson ideas drawn from music from around the world.

## **RESOURCES**

There is a fairly wide selection of tuned and untuned instruments, most of which are kept in the music room. Instruments include for example metallophones, chime bars, drums, keyboard and guitars. Children should be taught from an early age how to use and care for all these instruments and also to check each instrument before returning it to its storage area. The music teacher/co-ordinator needs to be kept informed of any problems so that instruments can be replaced or repaired.

## **ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING**

A musical profile is built up gradually throughout the key stage. A series of 'snapshots' are compiled over the years and a general picture of musical development is created.

Assessment in Music happens all the time. It is an on-going process brought about by:

- Observation of children working.
- Discussions with children about their learning.
- Looking and listening to children's musical work.
- Class teachers are present during music lessons.

The music co-ordinator, music teacher, class teacher and instrumental staff will contribute to the assessment of the children's progress in music. Appropriate records of assessment will be kept.

## **THE MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR**

- The music co-ordinator will have ultimate responsibility for the Music Development Plan and Music Policy
- Represents the musician's needs/views at appropriate meetings and provide feedback
- Provides advice and assistance to all staff when requested
- Support in-class music opportunities
- Co-ordinates the purchasing and costings of eg instrumental repair
- Monitors instrumental provision throughout the school
- Conducts observation of teaching and learning during music lessons
- Reviews planning of music throughout the school
- Provides INSET to discuss musical issues and where appropriate to update/maintain staff knowledge

## **THE MUSIC TEACHER**

- Teaches across the age range (EYFS, KS1 and KS2)
- Follows the National Curriculum during class Music lessons
- Offers support to class teachers eg music lesson ideas
- Offers accompaniment for eg class assemblies, Christmas concerts
- May lead singing assemblies
- Seeks opportunities for performances and other collaborative initiatives
- May advise on opportunities for eg educational music trips

## **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

At John Ruskin School we endeavour to increase opportunities to perform and participate in music related opportunities including:

- Whole school assembly opportunities eg Harvest, Christmas and the school production.
- Year 6 showcase their musical skills in their leaver's assembly.
- Events and workshops offered through Southwark Music services.
- Promotion of external educational organisations that offer additional music opportunities.

The children that learn an instrument and those in the Vocal Group are encouraged to share their work by performing in assemblies and sometimes producing a special music concert for the rest of the school. Parents are invited to attend.



Music Policy (Revised March 2023).

Music co-ordinator: Leonie May

Music Teacher: Katie Simmons