Great Finborough Church Primary School

Music Development Statement & Plan

A: Curriculum Music

All children in KS1 and KS2 participate in a 60-minute timetabled music lesson every week. This is delivered by our Music Specialist as well as classroom teachers where necessary. Musical skills and knowledge are developed through the Ofsted approved and clearly structured online scheme 'Charanga.' Which meets all the statutory curricular requirements of the National curriculum for England and is also informed by the Model Music Curriculum. This progressive and engaging scheme teaches the key elements of music in a variety of ways including a regular focus on listening and appraisal, singing and learning to play instruments. Pupils in the Early Years are encouraged to experiment with their voices and instruments through explorative play and singing songs and rhymes on a daily basis. Musical activities are linked to key texts that are used as part of the Reception curriculum. As the Reception year progresses children are encouraged to gradually become part of the whole school singing experience in assemblies and church services. Therefore, by the time pupils reach KS1 they are confident enough to engage well with the 'Charanga' curriculum and musical activities throughout the school as a whole.

We aim for our music curriculum to be fully inclusive and accessible for all pupils. Enjoyable activities incorporating movement are an integral part of learning in music. This ensures that all children, whatever their ability, are able to enjoy music and use their body expressively to enhance their understanding. Visual aids including cartoons, videos and interactive activities help to engage pupils with a variety of learning styles. When learning to play an instrument, a visual guide is shown on the board which tells pupils which notes to play and when. This is taught and displayed alongside traditional written notation so that all pupils can play successfully while also developing a knowledge of how music is written on a staff. Singing regularly allows all children including those with SEN to use their voices with clarity and confidence. All children get the chance to play a variety of instruments including the recorder and glockenspiel. Staff support and differentiated tasks are used carefully to ensure all pupils are able to experience playing music with others. Those with sensory needs are encouraged to join in with adaptions made as necessary (e.g. ear defenders, suitable seating and instrument placement) to make sure they are comfortable and secure in lessons.

All pupils learn a range of songs from different cultures, genres and time periods playing together individually, in small groups and as a whole class ensemble. They incorporate tuned and un-tuned instruments into these songs with greater complexity as they move through the school. In upper KS2, musicality, a wider awareness of key genres and the evolution of music throughout history means that children leave our school with an extensive appreciation for music and its impact on society. Through our continued partnership with Band Academy our year 6 pupils have been able to have individual guitar lessons as part of their weekly learning (20 minutes /week). Giving all children the opportunity to access personalised learning in music before they leave our school is yet another way we ensure the subject is accessible to everyone. The chance to try learning a more complex instrument is therefore not out of reach and pupils have a unique opportunity to unlock talents that may have remained undiscovered.

Working together to achieve a collaborative performance always brings such joy to staff and pupils alike, especially the annual whole school production where all pupils come together to perform a full length musical theatre production bringing all of these essential musical skills together in combination with drama and performing arts.

B: Co-Curricular Music

All pupils are encouraged to enjoy music beyond curriculum time and are given a variety of opportunities to do so.

Using our voices as instruments is a key aspect of music throughout the whole school. Through our weekly collective worship assemblies, the children sing together as a whole school. This is extended into the community with opportunities to sing in local church services and even at the Cathedral alongside other schools.

The school choir takes place once a week for an hour as an after school club for most of the year. Children are able to sign up for the club on a half termly basis and incurs a small weekly charge. The choir allows children to further enhance their singing skills beyond the curriculum being able to start harmonising and singing more complex parts alongside others. The choir performs in the church, mini showcases for parents and also at the local care home.

Individual guitar, piano and singing lessons are also available for those who wish to enhance their skills further through our partnership with Band Academy. These are paid for privately and cost £15 for a 20-minute lesson once a week. Lessons are available with no charge for Pupil Premium targeted pupils.

C: Musical Experiences

Our yearly production involves children learning scripts, auditioning to staff and practising beyond normal curriculum times. All children in KS1 and KS2 participate in this in some way and a culture of team work, comradery and reaching high standards in all areas of performance are central to every part of the process. The professionalism, passion and excitement that resonates from our children when they perform to others is second to none. This is the result of the importance placed upon the expressive arts throughout our school as a whole from the Early Years through to KS2.

D: In the Future

At Great Finborough Primary School, we are continually sourcing opportunities for our children to develop beyond the curriculum. We aim to increase opportunities for children to visit the theatre and watch a live stage production. We also intend for our pupils to see and hear instruments being played live, to interact with real musicians and have the chance to ask questions about their work. We will continue our close involvement with the local community and local churches giving children valuable chances to perform and bring joy to others through music which is central to school life at Great Finborough.