

# **John Blandy Primary School**



## **Music Policy September 2025**

**Belong. Believe. Brilliant**

## **Intent**

Through a positive caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace our vision statement of **'Belong. Believe. Brilliant.'** through our learning across the curriculum, striving to support each other with our journey to be the best that we can be. In music, we develop our children's musical knowledge and understanding through a progression of learning as they journey through the school. Children's musical diet is interweaved through assemblies, celebrations and across the curriculum, from Reception to Year Six.

## **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 in our 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.

## **Music curriculum planning**

### Planning

At John Blandy, we use the Sing Up scheme of work as the main driver for our music provision and use the planning provided within this scheme.

### Progression

Children's progress is assessed 3 times per year in the musical strands of

- Listening and Appraising
- Singing and Playing
- Improvising and Composing

## **Teaching and Learning**

Singing lies at the heart of many of our units of work. Two KS2 cohorts learn an instrument as part of their music curriculum. Year 3/4 learn to play the recorder and Year 5, the ukelele. Untuned percussion

instruments and glockenspiels are also widely used amongst year groups.

## **Cross-curricular Links**

### Maths/English/Science/Humanities

Music may be used as a way of helping children remember facts and concepts across the wider curriculum as it is much easier to remember a song than it is to simply remember facts. This also adds another element of enjoyment to the lessons for our pupils.

### SMSC

Listening to music evokes many different emotions, feelings, opinions, enjoyment and discussion. Through these discussions, children learn that not everyone thinks or feels the same, allowing them to grow in their moral and spiritual development. We often use music as part of our celebrations of key events. We also aim to develop children's cultural capital through exposure to a wide variety of musical genres and styles, not only through specific lessons but also through singing assemblies, music to walk into during assemblies, music at special events and performances. In each music lesson there is an emphasis on performing and sharing the skills learnt. This helps children to develop confidence when working with a group to perform in front of others.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage**

Reception teachers make use of the Sing Up units of work for EYFS as well as teaching additional songs, rhymes and music making as a part of the topic work covered throughout the year. 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 in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives oral or written feedback as necessary to inform future progress. Older pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. 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 these grades through our Key Performance Indicators (KPI) tracking document.

## **Additional music teaching**

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is provided by Oxfordshire Music Service. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons are normally taught to small groups of children who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the guitar. We also work in conjunction with Rock Steady Music. Rock Steady teach children to play instruments and sing through creating rock bands with groups of children, and learning one core song.

We also have a piano teacher in school, teaching 1:1 piano lessons. This is a privately run teacher, parents pay for these lessons directly to the piano teacher. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, but usually takes place during curriculum time.

### **The school choir and 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. Children from KS2 are invited to sing in school choirs at different local events across the school year. The primary aim is to enable children to enjoy singing together.

Children have opportunities throughout their time at John Blandy to take part in different musical performances: at Christmas (whole school); the spring term (Y3-4); at the end of the summer term (Y5-6). We also take 45 children in Y4-6 to be part of the young Voices concert at the Birmingham Arena in January to join with thousands of other children from across the country.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for budding musicians to perform for the school community. This includes solo and ensemble performances as part of assemblies and concerts. This recognises their achievements and celebrates their success.