

Great Moor Junior School

Music Guidelines



October 2024

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.

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 interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

At Great Moor Junior School, we aim to:

- Deliver the music curriculum in line with the school's Teaching and Learning Policy.
- Improve the quality of learning experiences and to raise the quality of music teaching.
- Ensure that all children have equal opportunities to develop a wide range of musical skills and to encourage music to be used as a form of communication.
- Develop consistency and progression through the school.
- Monitor the progress of the children.
- Develop children's ability to think and act as musicians, reflecting independently on their work and developing confidence in making musical decisions.
- Improve listening and thinking skills which underpin all musical activities.
- Develop children's learning in and through music, as well as about music.
- Develop knowledge of and a practical understanding of the language (inter-related dimensions) of music.
- Lay the foundation for further teaching and participation in music in secondary school, as well as a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Objectives

We will achieve these aims by:

- Providing for music to be performed in a variety of ways including the voice, body percussion and movement and as well as through a variety of instruments.
- Providing a curriculum which allows the exploration of the voice in younger children and develops the children's confidence in using their singing voice individually and collectively.
- Providing opportunities for different types of performance and music-making, informal and formal, individual and communal in school, the local community and further afield.
- Developing and promoting musical learning through practical music-making and making sounds across a range of contexts, including singing, creating, playing, performance and music technology
- Providing a variety of opportunities for listening, which will include music produced by the children themselves, performers visiting the school or at external events, as well as a range of appropriate recorded music

The Teaching of Music

- The teaching of music is based on the National Curriculum and elements of the Model Music Curriculum and is being delivered by Aoife Doogan who teaches music throughout the year groups.
- Each of the key musical elements are covered in both upper and lower juniors, and are taught within broader units of work. These are developed through a spiral curriculum alongside the key skills e.g. listening, appraising, composing, performing, singing and notating.
- Where appropriate pupils' learning is recorded and stored on shared area. Compositions are recorded using iPads.
- Resources for music are stored outside the library. Planning is stored on the Shared Area.
- Children have opportunities to take tuition in keyboard, guitar and wind instruments. These lessons are taught by peripatetic teachers; a fee is payable.
- Children have the opportunity to sing in an after school singing club.
- Children have the opportunity to learn ukulele in an after school club.
- Children are provided with a wide range of performing opportunities throughout the year.
- Children who learn instruments are encouraged to use these in music lessons where possible to develop their musical skills further.

Music is timetabled once a week, every second half term, and is taught by a music specialist. In this way, the teaching of music is consistent, well-informed and progressive. The music teacher uses a variety of teaching techniques to give all children the best chance to succeed. Songs and listening activities are chosen carefully so that children experience musical skills and concepts in a practical and enjoyable way, through games and activities using the body, movement and a variety of

props and other resources. Children gain insights into important aspects of singing development, such as posture, following a conductor, breathing, tone quality, clarity, exploring and expressing mood, as well as the lyrics of songs. Children also have experience in learning songs and performing using repertoire, which is not part of the regular class music lessons, working with the music teacher, during after school singing club and an ensemble music club. Performance opportunities include school, community events or other concert occasions.

Monitoring

- The children's progress will be monitored in accordance with the schools Teaching and Learning Policy by the Music Co-ordinator.