



MUSIC POLICY 2025-2026

Music Subject Leader: Mrs J Spiby-Wilson

"Where words fail, music speaks." - Hans Christian Anderson

Curriculum Intent Statement

At Owston Park Primary Academy, we provide a bespoke, knowledge-rich curriculum with the purpose of increasing the quantity and quality of what our children know, enabling them to develop a wealth of knowledge and cultural capital to draw upon and build upon throughout their lives. We believe that children need to see how what they are learning is connected to a body of greater knowledge and that knowledge across those bodies is interchangeable.

Children need to understand about concepts, and how these concepts inter-relate. Curriculum literacy requires understanding of the meaning, use and justification of curriculum concepts through respecting individual subject traditions. We have created a curriculum based on distributed practise and regular testing which provides coherence and helps knowledge to move into long-term memory, to become declarative and procedural. Through its structure, defined by details not by titles, children are supported to navigate their way through a meaningful, inter-related curriculum rather than one which is random, based on tenuous skills progressions. Our curriculum is about addressing social injustice so that our children leave us with a love of locality, happiness, dignity and strong emotional literacy. They will leave us with the keys to unlock the powers of the powerful. The national curriculum 'provides children with an introduction to essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens.' It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought, said and done and helps engender and appreciation of human creativity and achievement. At Owston Park we are keen also to emphasise to children the way in which 'the best that has been thought and said and done' impacts upon their own life, today, living in North Doncaster. We have a clear idea of what knowledge, words and concepts we want children to learn in each subject. Crucially we also know where the 'horizontal' and 'vertical' links are. Vertical links are those links WITHIN a subject year to year (the concept of 'empire' for example, or 'warfare' or 'colonisation'). Horizontal links are those links ACROSS subjects within a year group (such as linking the study of Romans with a study of Christianity, the concept of settlements, the design of villages, the concept of leadership, Roman artwork etc.). The impact of our curriculum will be seen not only in measurable attainment and progress, but in that Owston Park Primary Academy's students are confident, enthusiastic and curious young people, who are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to live a purposeful and fulfilling life.



Curriculum Themes

Knowledge Rich  The basis of our curriculum is powerful knowledge – by teaching ‘the best that has been thought, said and done’, we open up our children’s minds, ignite their curiosity and engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. Key knowledge for each subject has been carefully considered by subject leaders alongside class teachers, and is codified in our bespoke Knowledge Organisers.	Evidence based  Our cumulative approach is rooted in neuroscience and educational research. We use regular retrieval practise to help to commit key knowledge to children’s long term memory. ‘Memory is the residue of thought’ – the more we think about something, the more likely we are to remember it. Our assessment reflects this, measuring the knowledge which children retain, so we can be confident that they’ve truly learnt it.	Cumulative and coherently sequenced  Children learn explicitly planned interconnected webs of carefully sequenced and discretely taught conceptual knowledge, which are revisited in subsequent contexts enabling children to build up networks of connected information as schema. Discretely teaching conceptual knowledge means it becomes easier for children to add new information to existing schema, as new knowledge ‘sticks’ to prior knowledge.	Depth for all  All children receive quality first teaching. Content is not differentiated, so no knowledge is out of bounds for any child, because every student has an entitlement to access powerful knowledge which opens the door to a world beyond our own individual experiences. New information is introduced in small steps, with lots of modelling and scaffolding, enabling children to build confidence. The culture at Owston Park celebrates mistakes and uses them as a teaching point.
Vocabulary Rich  Vocabulary is explicitly planned for and taught within each unit. Vocabulary is the key to unlocking and understanding the knowledge. Discussion and structured learning conversations are a key feature of wider curriculum lessons.	Enrichment  Our topics provide the opportunity to bridge our children’s cultural capital deficit through enrichment – educational visits, visitors into school and topic launches. The substance of the knowledge taught inspires awe and wonder.	Community and Identity  Our curriculum is built on meaningful local links to encourage our children to celebrate our rich heritage. Parents are invited in at least once per term for topic landings to celebrate children’s learning.	Core skills developed  Topics are underpinned by a key text which draws upon and builds schema to help contextualise the key knowledge which children have learnt. Opportunities for extended writing are built into the curriculum. There are high expectations of core skills across the curriculum.

Music Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent	Implementation	Impact
To inspire and ignite children's curiosity of music.	• Showcase music so that children understand the relevance of what they're learning. They help to develop cultural capital, e.g. through visits to local places such as Young Voices and Sing Out hosted at different venues, or a specialist visiting school such as the peripatetic music teacher who delivers ukulele lessons. • A wide variety of enriching teaching approaches and resources are encouraged, e.g. through a combination of teacher led and inquiry lessons, role play, learning through storytelling, • The Music room environment is inviting and displays information relevant to children's learning, e.g. posters and notations displayed. Instruments are stored correctly and equipment is readily available.	Children will enjoy learning about music and be excited to learn. Children will achieve age related expectations in Music. Children will retain knowledge about relevant information. Children will be enthused to progress onto more advanced instruments using the skills they already have.

To engender children to different genres of music throughout the decades.	• British Values are weaved into our music curriculum. • Music reflection to take place in the 15 minutes post lunchtime across school in KS2 where songs from different eras and genres are played for the children to reflect on their previously taught knowledge of Music through taught lessons and Music Monday. • Music Monday sessions to be delivered on a weekly basis, following a guidance of set songs for KS1 and KS2 (Lower and Upper). This will act as a development session for conversation and an opportunity for children to use taught musical vocabulary in the correct context.	• Children will have a good understanding of Music beyond their local environment. • Children learn to value their own, and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain, by accessing different genres in music. • Children will feel part of a community, by listening to the same songs and genre throughout school. They will come together to utilise their knowledge through the end of year/topic performances. • Children will envelop in music. They are surrounded by music and can link it to emotions and feelings. • They will use musical vocabulary and identify them in a range of different genres and songs. They will learn to use emotive language in writing.
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To set out sequences of learning in the following key areas which, when taken together all contribute towards the steadily increasing development of musicianship: Singing, Listening, Composing, Performing/Instrumental Performance.	• Our instrumental lessons are taught sequentially in order to develop children's understanding of the key concepts, which are visited and revisited throughout children's music learning journeys. • Music lessons are knowledge rich linking to curriculum has been carefully designed to provide opportunities for children to pick work, and our bespoke revisit and build upon their prior learning, through concepts – these concepts enable children to draw vertical links (learning linking to learning in a prior year group) and horizontal links (learning from other topics or other subjects within their year group). • Music lessons at Owston Park are taught discretely by both class teachers and an external professional. Where Mr Smith progresses with tuned instrument teaching, teachers will deliver the curriculum to their classes with some links to topic. • Vocabulary is explicitly taught in music to enable children to develop an understanding of key concepts, which are covered in multiple year groups to ensure prior knowledge is being built on and schema is being developed, allowing for deeper conclusions to be drawn and comparisons to be made between different music styles.	Children will retain knowledge about relevant information. Children will be able to draw on prior learning to draw comparisons between different music styles. Children will have a rich vocabulary that they can apply.
Understand the impact that music can make on people's lives.	• Enquiry based questions enable children to learn knowledge which they then apply, rather than just rote learning facts. • Children learn to find evidence through debating and reaching their own conclusions, presenting their point of view succinctly, and by so doing, develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving. • The new Model music curriculum gives us opportunity to streamline and focus more on the skills and listening and understanding. The children are given more time to learn their musical instrument which develops into our sequence of learning.	Work is of good quality and demonstrates pupils are acquiring knowledge, skills and vocabulary in an appropriate sequence. Children access depth through discussion and class tasks and progression with musical instruments. .

Develop Core skills	• Music lessons provide opportunities for children to develop core skills are encouraged to use maths to understand time signatures, bars of music and children note length. • To be able to read notes of music and use key vocabulary when analysing and evaluating music. • Children are given feedback on language and literacy and are prompted to use the musical vocabulary in full sentences correctly.	Children's participation in music lessons reflects the same high expectations of core subject work. Children are proud of their work – this is reflected in their presentation and the quality of performances and showcases.
To enable all children to receive the same quality of Music education, ensuring that children are supported where support is necessary and that all children are challenged and stretched within their learning.	In Music this looks like: • Common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses; setting tasks of increasing difficulty. • Not all children complete all tasks, and additional resources are available to scaffold children's learning. • Using classroom assistants to support children individually or in groups. • Children may be taught in small groups for intervention, and vocabulary or key information from knowledge organisers may be pre-taught to specific children for a keep up, not catch up approach. • Collaborative, group and paired work, which necessitates discussion is used, regularly, wherever possible. Mixed ability groupings, enabling children to learn from their peers and engage in high quality conversation. • Gifted and talented musicians to access specialised time to develop skills using a tuned instrument. • SEN children to feel stimulated with their sensory needs – and supported if they find it overwhelming through ear defenders.	A large proportion of children reach age related expectations in Music. SEN children and children working towards year group expectations feel supported and enjoy Music lessons. Data monitoring ensures children are targeted for intervention when not on track. Enrichment opportunities are subsidised for pupil premium and disadvantaged children.

THE FOUNDATION STAGE

In EYFS, music is immersed into the curriculum and continuous provision in a range of ways, focussing on narratives, singing and performing. Instruments are left for students to explore and create quality discussions about music using topic specific vocabulary. Achievements are shared through displays and collaborations with music leads to ensure all quality music learning is celebrated for the whole school community to share. At expected level for GLD the children will invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher; - Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs; Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music. A significant amount of time is allocated in the early years to music as it is a building block for their emotional literacy and story-telling – leading on to independent reading. Performing is show cased at Christmas where early years children will immerse all their music skills to put on a nativity for parents to watch.

TIME ALLOCATION

In order to ensure our curriculum is broad and balanced, we teach every subject each term. We understand that time constraints may mean that lessons do not achieve an equal time allocation on a weekly basis, but on a termly basis Music should be taught as often as Geography, with a rough expectation of an hour a week, although this may be more or less during certain weeks. When there are key dates throughout the year, such as Harvest festival, Christmas, Easter and the end of the summer term., more time is given to practice nativity songs or perform etc.

PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

The planning process at Owston Park Primary begins with the national curriculum and our curriculum drivers, to ensure that the topics we teach include the powerful knowledge – the best that has been thought, said and done – and are enhanced by our locality and our own unique heritage. Formative assessment is an integral and continuous part of the teaching and learning process at

Owston Park Primary and much of it is done informally as part of each teacher's day to day work. Teachers integrate the use of formative assessment strategies such as: effective questioning, clear learning objectives, the use of success criteria, effective feedback and response in their teaching and marking and observing children participating in activities to scaffold and challenge learning. Planning may be annotated and those who need more support can be identified on plans through use of A.F.L. Findings from these types of assessment are used to inform future planning.

INCLUSION

Our curriculum is planned so that all pupils can take part, enjoy learning and achieve their best, whatever their starting points or needs. We use adaptive teaching to support children with different abilities, interests and needs, making sure that everyone feels included and able to succeed. We celebrate diversity and encourage pupils to respect and learn from each other's differences. By removing barriers and providing the right support, we ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive and develop a love of learning.

DIVERSITY

At Owston Park, we are committed to ensuring that our music curriculum reflects the diversity of wider society and the world. Children experience a broad range of musical traditions, genres, composers, and performers, allowing them to recognise that music is created and shared by many different voices and perspectives. We actively weave diversity through our music teaching by:

- Exploring the lives and contributions of musicians and composers from different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds.
- Studying musical traditions and innovations from around the globe, highlighting the interconnectedness of sound and culture.
- Promoting an understanding of how diverse communities have influenced both local and national music.
- Encouraging pupils to listen critically and reflect on how music communicates identity, representation, and different viewpoints.
- Providing opportunities to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of underrepresented groups in music.

By embedding diversity into our curriculum, we aim to develop pupils' appreciation of global music-making and nurture empathy, preparing children to become thoughtful, informed, and open-minded listeners, performers, and creators in today's multicultural world.

MARKING & FEEDBACK

- Children are given opportunities to self-assess their learning against the Learning Challenge where possible, using the metacognition colours familiar to them.
- Marking should always be focussed on the Learning Objective.
- Feedback should perform 3 purposes; ensure children understand what they have done well; ensure children are clear about how to improve; ensure children make visible signs of improvement.
- Marking should always 'close the gap' and give an improvement suggestion; of which there are 4 types: a challenge prompt, a reminder prompt, a scaffold prompt e.g. a questions or unfinished questions, steps to complete tasks or an example prompt.
- Children to have opportunities to self and peer assess their work, when appropriate. This should be recorded.
- When the arrow icon is shown it indicates what the next step for the child will be or action to complete, either as a consolidation activity or an opportunity to extend learning.

- Wherever possible, the checking or marking of work will be done with the child who will be given the opportunity to ask questions and self-correct.

MONITORING AND SUBJECT LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The subject leader's role is to empower colleagues to teach wider curriculum lessons to a high standard and support wider curriculum subject leaders in the following ways. Their role includes leading, managing, monitoring, motivating, training and guiding colleagues.

- Knowing the curriculum requirements of their subject throughout school, and using their knowledge of their subject to create road maps of the learning journey and assist teachers in developing knowledge organisers, ensuring that the content maintains fidelity with the national curriculum.
- Subject leaders monitor medium term plans and work alongside class teachers to ensure that pupils receive full coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Showcasing and raising the profile of their subject throughout school, e.g. through displays etc.
- Monitoring their subject through book scrutinies, lesson observations, data analysis and pupil interviews to ensure comprehensive monitoring of wider curriculum subjects and to inform them of the quality of the wider curriculum provision across the school.
- Keeping up to date on current issues; disseminating relevant information and providing training for staff members (either directly or through other professionals).
- Identifying and acting on subject specific development needs of staff members with support from SLT - books are scrutinised by SLT throughout the term with a compliance check completed half termly and feedback is provided.
- Monitoring expectations, provision and attainment across the school and providing feedback to develop practice further in order to raise standards.
- Providing necessary equipment and maintaining it to a high standard, managing the subject budget effectively.

WIDER CURRICULUM NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Topic launches to be an exciting, awe-inspiring event to engage and excite children.
- Key vocabulary should be displayed within the classroom, as should resources which support key knowledge e.g. timelines, diagrams.
- Learning objectives and titles to be present in children's books. The title should contain a context and a 'so that' so children understand how what the activity links to the learning. The learning challenge should be highlighted in the corresponding colour according to the metacognitive level achieved.
- Vocabulary, particularly referring to the subject's concepts, should be explicitly taught within the lesson.
- Presentation expectations in wider curriculum lessons to mirror expectations in core subjects.