



A Policy on a Page:



Curriculum Intent:

At St James's, our curriculum is deliberately ambitious, carefully sequenced, and ensures that pupils revisit and deepen their musical knowledge over time.

This is supported by the Charanga scheme of work, which structures all musical learning around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music. The scheme allows sufficient time for teaching, practising, revisiting content, exploring personal responses, and promptly addressing any gaps in musical knowledge.

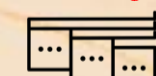
The children will listen critically to, and engage in, a variety of musical genres. They will be encouraged to explore their own thoughts and feelings in response to music from different genres and historical eras.



Curriculum Vision:

Our vision is for all children to develop a secure and well-rounded understanding of music through rich and varied experiences.

Pupils will encounter a broad range of musical genres spanning different cultures and historical periods, enabling them to build a deep appreciation of music's diversity and significance.



Curriculum Sequencing:

At St James, we deliver our music curriculum through the Charanga scheme of work to ensure a clear and coherent progression of musical knowledge and skills across the key stages.

Each unit of work is built around the core strands of musical learning as outlined in the national curriculum: listening and appraising, performing, and a range of musical activities including improvising, composing, and exploring musical elements. Lessons are carefully sequenced to revisit and deepen musical understanding over time, enabling pupils to make secure progress.

Each lesson includes opportunities for formative assessment, allowing teachers to respond to pupils' needs and build on prior learning.



Curriculum Progression:

The intention of the music curriculum at St James is to provide all children with a broad, ambitious, and musically rich education that develops both their appreciation of music and their identity as musicians. Through a carefully sequenced and engaging curriculum, supported by the Charanga scheme of work, pupils progressively build their musical knowledge and skills across key stages..



Joyful Readers

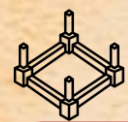
Reading is embedded throughout all our music lessons to support pupils in becoming confident and joyful readers. Across each unit, children engage with carefully selected texts about significant musicians and musical genres, enhancing both their subject knowledge and reading fluency. This approach ensures reading is purposefully integrated into the music curriculum, contributing to pupils' wider literacy development."



EYFS As the Bedrock:

In the Early Years Foundation Stage at St James, children are immersed in a rich, exploratory musical environment where creativity, imagination, and self-expression are nurtured from the earliest stages. Music is experienced holistically, with open-ended opportunities for children to explore sound, movement, rhythm, and storytelling through voice and instruments. Children are encouraged to engage in musical activities that prioritise the creative process over the final product, developing confidence in their ideas and learning to value both collaborative and independent exploration. As part of this, pupils begin to explore personal identity through music—developing an understanding that everyone's experiences are unique, and that music is a powerful tool for expression and connection. Musical skills such as pulse, rhythm, rhyme, and pitch are introduced gradually through singing, movement, and play, with a strong emphasis on oracy and language development. Children are immersed in the world of nursery rhymes and songs, using them as a foundation for early musical understanding and expressive communication. Opportunities for musical exploration are purposefully embedded within continuous provision, particularly in the outdoor learning environment. Here, children experiment with sound-making, composition, and performance, supporting both their musical and wider developmental progress. In line with Ofsted's expectations, this approach ensures children begin to build a secure foundation of musical knowledge, fluency, and enjoyment that will be developed further through the key stages.

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Strong Foundations:

Our Music curriculum enables all children to appreciate music and develop the skills to express themselves as musicians. This is delivered through a creative, engaging curriculum supported by the Charanga scheme of work. Learning is built around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure, and notation. These form the foundation for progressive skill development. Children listen critically to a wide range of musical genres, styles, and traditions. They are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings in response to music, promoting both personal expression and cultural understanding..



Inclusive Practice - Meeting the needs of all learners:

Children of all abilities are supported and challenged to develop their appreciation of a wide range of musical genres through carefully planned differentiation, including tailored questioning, specialist teaching, varied practical tasks, and appropriate support. Knowledge organisers are used to consolidate and extend learning beyond the classroom. In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils are actively encouraged to continue learning a musical instrument, promoting sustained engagement and progression in music



Teaching Pedagogy:

Charanga Musical School Units of Work support children in developing a secure understanding of key musical concepts through a repetition-based, spiral approach to learning. By revisiting the same concepts through varied musical activities and contexts, pupils deepen their knowledge, strengthen their skills, and achieve mastery over time



Developing Cultural Capital:

To develop an appreciation of a diverse range of musicians and artists, each year group has been assigned Aspirational Musical Figures to study in order to enhance their learning and understanding of specific musical genres through famous influential musicians. The children will be encouraged to develop their resilience, perseverance and confidence when performing in front of an audience.



Journey Drivers

Joyful Readers - Through exploring texts about significant musicians, musical genres, and song lyrics linked to each topic. **Understanding British and Christian Values** - By studying a diverse range of music and composers, promoting respect, tolerance, and cultural understanding. **Resilience and Perseverance** - Through learning to play instruments, rehearsing performances, and refining skills such as composition and improvisation.



Staff CPD:

The Subject Champion meets regularly with the in-school music specialist to review curriculum content coverage, ensuring breadth and progression across all year groups. The Subject Champion has established a link with Outwood Academy's Head of Music to support transition and curriculum continuity from primary to secondary school. The Subject Champion has attended Music Co-ordinator training delivered by St Helens Music Hub, enhancing subject knowledge and leadership capacity. The Subject Champion participates in online Charanga training, focusing on effective implementation of the Model Music Curriculum.



Assessment:

Each lesson includes practical, meaningful opportunities for formative assessment through musical response, allowing teachers to identify and address gaps in knowledge and ensure all pupils make secure progress. In line with Ofsted guidance, assessment remains rooted in musical activity rather than written outcomes, and supports pupils in developing technical control, musical understanding, and expressive confidence.