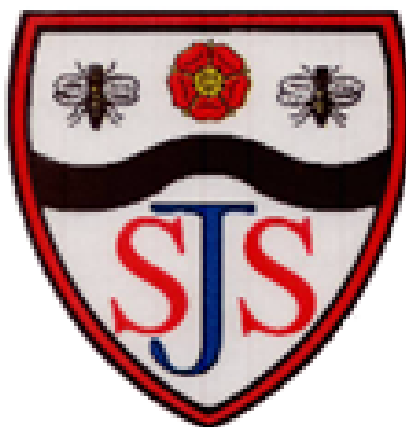


Shadsworth Junior School

Music Policy



Approved by:

Jackie Gallagher

Date: Summer 2024

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by:

Subject Overview

At Shadsworth Junior School we intend to offer our pupils a range of musical opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Our curriculum is now updated following guidance from the Model Music Curriculum (DfE 2021) and the National Plan for Music Education 2022 in order to ensure we are giving children opportunities to develop their singing, listening, improvisation and composition skills using a range of techniques including a variety of software with music technology. This policy sets out a framework with which teaching and non-teaching staff can work, and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. It has been developed through a process of consultation with school staff and governors and we work in partnership with Bolton Music Service.

Excellent music education opens opportunities, but it is not simply a means to an end: it is also an end in itself. It gives children and young people an opportunity to express themselves, to explore their creativity, to work hard at something, persevere and shine. These experiences and achievements stay with them and shape their lives.

That is why music is an essential part of a broad and ambitious curriculum for all pupils. It must not be the preserve of the privileged few. Music should be planned and taught as robustly as any other foundation curriculum subject, as exemplified in the Model Music Curriculum we published last year.

(The Power of Music to Change Lives, DfE June 2022, page 4)

Music can have many benefits to children and it is used to enhance and complement other areas of the curriculum. At Shadsworth Junior School we also believe that Music is an important subject in its own right and therefore our teachers teach discrete one hour music lessons each week in order to teach our pupils the key skills needed to make progress. This is complimented by weekly whole school singing sessions where children are taught about vocal techniques, they discuss musical vocabulary and improve their performance skills. Children are able to join choir as part of our enrichment opportunities and we perform at various events throughout the year. We ensure that children have access to group guitar sessions run by teachers in school and from September 2023 our school will be welcoming a specialist music teacher to teach year groups Samba drumming, along with covering other areas of the music curriculum.

Our children have a range of opportunities to listen to live music onsite- from members of staff who perform for the children in our school band, Bolton Music Service Band, Pantomimes, older children from Secondary school performing their exam pieces in assembly and a variety of other outside agencies that we invite in to perform for us. We also take our pupils to performances offsite, such as Manchester Opera House, the Bridgewater Hall and Thwaites theatre, where they see and hear music in a different setting. Above all, we want children to enjoy and experience a wide range of styles and genres so that they can make their own choices about the music that they would like to listen to, create or perform as they grow up.

Aims

The aims of Music are:

- To bring our school community together by sharing the experience of regular, high quality singing opportunities.
- To develop our vocal technique and performance by having regular opportunities to sing to an audience.
- To have an opportunity to use a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments to improvise, compose and play music.
- To learn an instrument by taking part in a whole-class instrumental lesson for at least one term per year, with a specialist instrumental teacher.
- To develop an appreciation for a wide range of musical styles and genres.
- To develop an understanding of the inter-related dimensions of music (pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure) and their use in both the music we listen to and perform.

Curriculum

The children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, physical, emotional and intellectual development. Through Music, the children learn a range of skills, concepts, attitudes and methods of working.

Curriculum Coverage – Progression through the year groups

Our scheme of work includes regular opportunities for Singing, Listening, Composing and Performing through singing, tuned and un-tuned instruments or using music technology.

We have ensured progression through the year groups by planning a curriculum that raises expectations each year. In each year group we have planned for progression of the vocabulary that will be taught and used which increases in complexity in Year 5 and 6. There is also an increase in expectations in the skills progression. This has been guided by the Bolton Music service suggestion and incorporated into our scheme of work.

Key Stage 2

Pupils will be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They will develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils will be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music

Diversity

Music is an effective way to introduce and begin to understand other people and their cultures.

We believe that the Music curriculum should be representative and inclusive for all learners, and reflect the make-up of British society today. It should take a multi-perspective approach to all units of work. Music lessons should include a wide range of musical experiences including music from a wide range of cultures and traditions. We also include music from a variety of composers, including those from minority groups.

Teaching and Learning

Our school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in Music lessons.

We believe our children learn best when:

- They are part of a singing community- everyone's voice can be heard and valued.
- They are given time to be creative with their voice, tuned and untuned instruments.
- They are taught how to play an instrument by a specialist teacher.
- They are given reasons to rehearse and perform their pieces of music for an audience.
- They work as part of a team to create a piece of music.
- They feel that their contribution is valued and they know how they can improve or fine-tune their performance.
- They have fun and enjoy music lessons.
- They have access to a wide-range of resources including software for music technology to support their music lessons.

SEND Provision

We believe that creating a positive, supportive learning environment for all pupils without exception is key to musical success.

We recognise that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies which are differentiated by task, resources, scaffolding, expected outcomes and/or support from peers or adults.

For our SEND pupils, class teachers and subjects leaders will work closely with our SEND Coordinator to ensure that all SEND pupils are catered for appropriately during Music lessons.

Assessment and Recording

At Shadsworth Junior School assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Assessment is used to inform planning and to facilitate differentiation. The assessment of music lessons takes place when the teacher observes the children and their contribution towards the lesson. This can also be recorded by videoing or recording pieces of music or performances each week in class.

Children will be assessed as working within the expectations for their age group, working towards, or working above.

Monitoring

Monitoring takes place regularly through looking at teacher's planning, talking to the children and lesson observations. We also plan for a Deep Dive Monitoring Day regularly to ensure that subject leaders have a current and up-to-date working knowledge of their subject across the school. Each class has a Music ambassador who acts as a representative for their class. These children liaise with the Music co-ordinator to discuss learning that is taking place and to offer their opinions on what they enjoy or would like to do more of in music lessons.

Leadership of Music

It is imperative that an outstanding subject leader takes a high level of control over their subject. Approximately three times per year, an Impact Statement will be prepared which details what are the intent/actions required for Music within a set time period. This is followed by implementing the actions needed before analysing the impact. This on-going action plan ensures the constant review of Music across all year groups. Regular staff training is undertaken, as are meetings with other Music leaders at the Primary Music Network Meetings run by Bolton Music Service. All of which guarantees that the subject leader has an up-to-date working knowledge of Music within school, across BwD and nationally.

Ambassadors

All classes have chosen pupils who have an interest and passion for Music. These pupils meet every half-term to discuss what is happening in Music and what will be happening which will then be fed back to every class.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support music lessons.

- a wide selection of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.
- Xylophones and glockenspiels
- Electronic keyboards
- Class set of djembe drums
- Boomwhackers
- 5 child sized guitars
- Class set of recorders
- Charanga subscription
- BBC ten pieces teach website
- Purple mash, chrome lab, Charanga- Music technology software
- Mr Brown- specialist music teacher and Samba leader.