



Music Curriculum Statement

Why is Music important?

At St. George's Central, we believe that Music is a powerful, unique form of communication, which can change the way that children think, feel and act. It brings together intellect and feeling, and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of our culture past and present, music helps children to understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between home, school, Church and the wider world. The teaching of music develops children's ability in the fundamental skills of listening, improvising, composing, performing, appraising and appreciating and celebrating cultural differences. It offers the opportunity for active involvement in different forms of amateur music making, both individually and collaboratively, helping to develop a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment. Music can also have many physical benefits, such as the development of the muscles around the larynx and increased fine-motor control, in addition to promoting the self-esteem and well-being of all children within the school setting.

Music endorses the school policy on inclusion by providing effective learning opportunities for all children by setting suitable learning challenges, responding to children's diverse needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of children. In an area which has experience of deprivation, Music education provides a vital means of mitigating against social and economic deprivation, and central to this is the need for all children to have a wide range of cultural experiences.

What is Music like at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery?

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all children:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music;
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music using a wide range of tuned and untuned instruments;
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

- During the Early Years Foundation Stage, children will regularly come into contact with Music, following the guidance from the 'Expressive Arts and Design' strand in the 2025 EYFS statutory framework. This will involve activities such as singing simple songs and rhymes that can be learned by heart. Children will also be provided with the opportunity to explore and play musical instruments.
- In Key Stages 1 and 2, Music teaching will fulfil the programmes of study as outlined in the National Curriculum for Music. All children will be entitled to a 30 minute dedicated curriculum music lesson.

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- Music will be planned and delivered according to the bespoke long-term plan devised by the Music Lead. This includes detailed schemes of work, covering music from different cultures, times and genres and encouraging children to experiment using their voices, body percussions and instruments and utilises resources from a wide range of sources, including the Greater Manchester 'Charanga' resource, the BBC ten pieces and the 'Musical Futures' programme.
- Pupils in upper Key Stage 2 will be involved in the 'Musical Futures' programme, which involves children learning to play guitar, drums and keyboard. They will complete 'band' projects, undertaking a range of composing activities and will be encouraged to perform their compositions.
- Children will learn the subjective nature of Music and understand that it can take on many forms of expression, whilst still gaining a solid knowledge and understanding of the skills required to express themselves creatively.
- Children will be encouraged to respond critically to both theirs and their peers' work and provide positive evaluations and ideas for further development.
- Wherever possible, we will encourage visitors to our school to enhance the musical experiences that our children have.
- Children will be encouraged to participate and be fully involved in Music at their own level of confidence and ability.
- Children's work will be assessed regularly through observation during lessons, evaluation of finished pieces and discussion of pupil opinions/choices. Teachers will record the progress made by each child against the learning objectives for their lessons and will complete a half-termly colour-coded assessment against the key areas of listening, appraising, singing, improvising, composing and performing. The teacher will also make an assessment of progress for each child as part of the child's annual report to parents.
- Children in the Year 4 cohort will be involved in the Wider-Opportunities Music initiative, which aims to provide children with free music tuition for a year. This will allow all Year 4 children to have free access to a percussion instrument for the duration of the year, after which they can choose to continue with their instrument through peripatetic lessons.
- We will offer a variety of extra-curricular Music activities to provide children with the opportunity to take part in Music outside of the usual curriculum Music lessons. For a small cost to parents, Children in Years 3-6 can opt to have peripatetic music lessons provided by teachers from Wigan Music Service. Also, children in Years 2-6 can join the school choir, which will focus on developing their vocal abilities through the use of chants, solo singing and group singing activities. This will also promote children's enjoyment of singing. Children in the choir will be given regular opportunities to perform to audiences throughout the year at a variety of different events. There will also be a recorder ensemble, which will practise one lunchtime per week to allow children the opportunity to develop their skills on this woodwind instrument.
- A musical performance for parents will be held each half-term to showcase the work of the school choir, as well as allowing children who are learning to play an instrument the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.
- In addition to voluntary activities, school worships provide opportunities for all children to sing communally, which forms an important part of our school ethos.

Ways to explore Spirituality in Music

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that our curriculum should provide opportunities for children to develop a love of learning, so that they go on to make a positive difference to themselves, their community and the wider world. We have developed a definition of what we believe Spirituality is:

'Spirituality is...an understanding of how beliefs, values and experiences shape the identity of individuals, their spiritual disciplines and connections with life.'

- Music offers many opportunities for spiritual development at primary school level because it engages children emotionally, imaginatively, and communally.
- Music allows emotional expression, helping children explore feelings such as joy, sadness, wonder, and calm.

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- Listening to and creating music encourages reflection, imagination, and moments of stillness or awe.
- Singing and making music together builds a sense of belonging, unity, and shared experience.
- Music from different cultures and traditions helps children appreciate diversity and respect others' beliefs and values.
- Songs with stories or meanings can raise questions about life, nature, and what matters to people.
- Rhythm and repetition can be calming and mindful, supporting focus and inner awareness.

Overall, music in primary schools supports spirituality by nurturing creativity, emotional awareness, connection, and a sense of wonder—without requiring religious instruction.

Opportunities to celebrate Music at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

Children are given many opportunities to celebrate their learning in Music:

- During worship, all children are given the opportunity to sing together and learn a range of Christian themed songs.
- Children in the Year 4 cohort perform in three concerts over the course of the year to showcase their learning of the instruments that they study each term. They study tuned percussion, African drumming and plastic percussion. Parents/carers are invited to these performances as a celebration of children's achievement.
- Children who attend the school choir are involved in many events over the year. These events include but are not limited to:
 - The Rotary Club Christmas Carol Service;
 - Switching on the Christmas lights on Tyldesley Market Square;
 - Community concerts;
 - The Athos Singing Festival;
 - Performances for parents during worship.
- Our half-termly performance for parents showcases our work of the school choir as well as allowing those children who learn to play an instrument the opportunity to play in front of an audience.
- The music lead organises an annual event for ATHOS schools named, 'Let's Play!', where children who are proficient on their instruments are invited to perform at a special evening concert alongside children of similar ability levels from other local schools.
- Photographs and short video clips are often taken during lessons and shared on social media platforms to allow parents and carers to see how children are progressing with their musical learning.
- Annual visits from the 'Music Alive' team allow children the chance to see professional musicians performing at a very high standard. This demonstrates the dedication and commitment needed to learn to play an instrument and what can be achieved if children do begin to learn.
- Annual visit to the 'Gala Concert' organised by Wigan music service for our Year 5 cohort. This showcases the talents of the Wigan Youth Orchestra and gives children the opportunity to witness young musicians performing some very complex pieces of music. Prior to these concerts, staff from Wigan Music Service come into school to deliver workshops, preparing children for the styles and genres of music they will hear at the concert.
- IsingPop concerts are done on a 2/3 yearly basis. They entail a company coming into school to teach all of the children in school a range of modern, upbeat songs with religious themes along with dances and actions. This learning culminates in a mass concert at St. George's Church, to which parents are invited.
- Within curriculum lessons, children who are receiving peripatetic lessons or who show natural talent towards music are encouraged to perform or model concepts to other children. This utilises their skills in a particular instrument area and can help to focus other children.

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