

## St Brendan's Catholic Primary School

### Music Rationale -

The aim of our music curriculum is to engage, empower and inspire our children to have a life-long love of music. Our approach to the Music curriculum is based on practical musical making; that is inclusive, hands on and allows the freedom for experimental and explorative music making. Through this, children are given musical autonomy to develop their music skills in performing, composing, listening and appraising, as well as developing their talents as a musician. Music is taught for the value of music alone. That is why we feel it is important that it is taught by a specialist music teacher. The subject is as unique in itself, just like our pupils.

As pupils progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music and by progressing through the 'Two Year Milestones' pupils have the time to secure and embed this knowledge. This is underpinned by the interrelated dimensions of music, (Rhythm, Pitch, Timbre, Tempo, Dynamics, Structure, Texture and Silence), that are the pillars to making, performing and analysing music. Over time pupils will progressively explore this terminology, and use it to express their understanding and deepen performance and compositional skills. This is developed through the lens of playing a variety of instruments, singing, body percussion, movement, as well as experiencing different composers and listening to a myriad of music from different cultures, places, times and genres. Underpinning all of this is our whole school curriculum intent; our five ways of well-being, utilising drivers and enhancers, metacognition, cultural capital and the development of approaches of knowledge retrieval.

This ethos is echoed in our classroom environment. We have a dedicated music room, which is open plan allowing for the space to be utilised for a variety of purposes. The walls have been purposefully spray decorated with artists, musicians, performers and composers from a wide range of genres and backgrounds, that are inspirational. We also have a devoted performance space within the classroom, which allows each pupils the opportunity to develop their performance skills, by taking ownership of the performance space and being given the opportunity to shine, within a safe environment to build confidence.

We understand that music has a huge impact upon a child's well-being, self- motivation, creativity, confidence and brings people together, which is fundamental to our whole school values. Music can have a significant contribution to the development of a child's resilience, self-discipline, developing leadership, team work, concentration and problem-solving. Music isn't just about learning about music. As Burnard and Murphy state,

*"Children use music to help maintain emotional and social well-being and celebrate culture and community in ways which involve entertaining or understanding themselves and making sense of the world around them. Children should develop their understanding, make musical judgements, apply their new learning, develop their aural memory, express themselves*

*physically, emotionally and through discussion and create their own musical ideas.”*  
Burnard and Murphy, 2017

Music is celebrated and promoted in and out of our school community. It is an entitlement for every child and an integral part of school life. Through careful and progressive planning, children are given the opportunity to watch and be part of a variety of musical activities, workshop and performances. Each year during Arts week, each child works toward achieving their discovery and explore awards, which are linked to work by Shakespeare.

Each child has the opportunity to learn a range of instruments, including the Djembe Drum (KS1), Recorder (LKS2) and Ukulele (UKS2), and are taught weekly by our specialist music teacher. They can also receive 1-1 and group music lessons taught by professional musicians from NMPAT. Singing assemblies are an integral aspect of our Catholic ethos at the school, and many go on to join our increasing popular school choir. Each year we have a wealth of opportunities to perform both in and outside school, including performances to the wider community at church events or visiting local care homes. Once a year we collaborate with other schools from the Trust, and together we create a showcase of music, singing and dance.

Learning Music is not limited to the lesson time already designated each week, as links are made to other areas of the curriculum, for example, Maths (using counting songs and rhymes to develop number sense), English (using rhymes and songs to develop word patterns/syllables and spelling), History (learning songs and creating raps about the Romans), RE and PSHE (learning songs about festivals, or about ourselves and our emotions). Singing, chants and word play are used through the school day and as part of our class organisation, such a tidy up songs and roll call in EYFS.

By the end of a child's time at our school, we feel that we have laid the foundations for them to feel they are musicians, who have developed listening, composing and performing skills that they can utilise for the rest of their lives.

