

## Music Curriculum - Intent

Music is an essential part of the 'Arts' curriculum and it provides children with access to explore a universal language, no matter what the child's ability or background. Music is a creative subject area that exposes children to experiences of 'awe and wonder' and develops their opinions and deeper understanding through composing, performing and evaluating. Our aim is to inspire children to be creative and imaginative to develop a love and understanding of Music and to create a school community and unite the children's voices in one common goal through performance.

Music is a universal language and research suggests that it can develop new pathways in children's brains and help strengthen memory skills. At New Invention infant school, we believe in developing a child as a whole and rounded person: therefore, music is important to develop confidence, teamwork, creativity and an appreciation of how Music can affect our everyday lives. In addition, it can help to support an understanding of other subject areas, as well as supporting children's behaviour and mental wellbeing. The key skills children need to develop for music are rhythm, tempo, dynamics, melody and pitch and then begin to apply them to composing and performance. Also, to develop their own opinions through evaluating music performance and composition.

## Implementation

We offer a wide variety of opportunities for children to experience and participate in music. This can be through visiting musicians or participating in a variety of school performances throughout the year to our wider community.

## Music – Early Years

In the Early Years, children have access to a music curriculum taught discreetly alongside literacy, numeracy and other cross-curricular areas. In literacy-based activities, children are developing all those early musical skills needed to either become a musician or develop an appreciation of music. They develop rhythm and keeping a steady beat through phonic based clapping activities and listening skills when completing sound journeys. Children have access to musical instruments in their choosing time and begin to develop an understanding of how to use instruments during creating music to accompany stories. Visual prompts are there to help develop an understanding of the music elements: tempo, rhythm and the dynamics of music. They begin to develop confidence by building up a repertoire of nursery rhymes, simple songs and memory based songs to support other curriculum areas. Children are encouraged to perform to their peers and parents in Christmas nativity plays. Reception children begin to transition into the school singing community by attending a weekly singing assembly from the start of the Spring Term.

## Music – KS1

In KS1, children further develop their musical ability through a weekly whole class music lesson. It is a very practical subject to enable children to improve their understanding of rhythm, keeping a steady beat, using their voices expressively and tunefully. Children will explore a variety of different genres of live and recorded pieces of music to develop their appreciation of music. They will gain an understanding of the vocabulary terms linked to music e.g. tempo, dynamics etc. In addition, the children have access once a week, for a term and a half, to a whole class music tuition in either the ukulele or keyboards from an outside professional.

Children in KS1 have a weekly singing assembly to help develop their voices expressively and to develop their sense of belonging in their school community. Songs are utilised to promote good behaviours, mental wellbeing and aid memory hooks for other areas of the curriculum. Children perform to their peers and parents in a variety of performances during the year, from a Christmas performance at the local church to a variety of assemblies. In addition, there are further opportunities for children to participate in a music club at dinnertime or join the school choir, which can lead to participating in local festival performances. Children have access to piano or keyboard lessons for very reasonable fee if they wish to further their musical development.

## Music- SEND

Our SEND children find Music a very enjoyable and inclusive subject. Music is a very practical subject and really appeals to our children who may find other subjects areas a little more challenging. All children are encouraged and included in performances that take place in the Key Stage phases. Music supports speech and language, memory, relationships, following instructions, physical development and building confidence to participate with their peers.

### What can parents/carers do to promote Music?

- ✓ Encourage children to listen to a variety of different genres of music on a regular basis. Talk to them about why you like certain kinds of music.
- ✓ Encourage an understanding that music is for everyone and that appreciating different genres is very personal and there is no right or wrong musical tastes.
- ✓ Encourage and support children to chant sing or rap.
- ✓ Encourage children who are learning to play an instrument to practise on a regular basis.
- ✓ Encourage clapping their hands along to music to find a steady beat. Also, play clapping games to encourage different rhythms.
- ✓ Encourage children to research artists and composers that they show an interest in from different eras.