Music at St Vigor and St John Primary School

Intent:

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. Our curriculum intent for Music reflects the purpose and aims of the national curriculum by helping our pupils develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. Our intent in the teaching of music is:

- to explore how sounds are made by a variety of instruments;
- to listen critically to develop an understanding of different musical structures
- to teach how music is composed, written down and created using technology;
- to examine the relevance of when, where and why a given piece of music was written and how it fits within a musical culture
- to develop the interrelated skills of composition, performance and appreciation.

We will use the Colins Music Express Scheme, to enable a whole school approach to our Music learning. All lessons are fundamentally underpinned by the key skills of pulse, rhythm and pitch. Activities in these key skills are progressive across the key stages. Our planning is sequenced in long and medium terms plans and is intended to offer a broad and rich Music curriculum; we aim to provide many performance opportunities, offered throughout the fabric of school life.

We teach music in EYFS as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin curriculum planning for Early Years children.

We believe every child should have the opportunity to learn an instrument regardless of individual needs or ability. These opportunities take place within whole class instrumental lessons through Wider Opportunities, teacher led whole class schemes, and individual lessons delivered by Music for School.

Our curriculum design seeks to promote adventurous ideals; increasing self-confidence, risk taking, resilience, creativity and sense of achievement; skills that can be taken and used across the curriculum. We are committed to developing children's ethical attitudes towards music; ensuring children appreciate and respect the value and importance of music and understand the role it can play in life, with personal emotions and experiences.

Implementation:

Teachers are committed to providing a stimulating and engaging music curriculum ensuring that our learners have regular opportunities to sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate throughout their primary years. We provide a weekly lesson of at least 30 minutes which follows a comprehensive. We teach the theory elements of music through these lessons so that children can use the language of music to dissect it, and understand how music is composed, played and appreciated.

Outside of lessons, music is taught through weekly singing assemblies and teachers look to find opportunities to bring music and singing into the wider curriculum. We enjoy sharing our learning in our Christmas "Mince Pie and Carol Concerts" and through our class celebration throughout the year.

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We work in close partnership with Wider Opportunities to offer whole class teaching where all children are taught to play an instrument, regardless of background and ability. All year groups have access to whole class instrumental lessons which are progressive across the key stages - moving from body percussion, to tuned percussion, to ukulele, to trumpet/clarinet. Instruments are revisited across the key stage to allow pupils to continue to develop their skills.

We aim to run a school choir which performs regularly in school and at events in the local and wider community - actively encouraging pupils to perform and take risks, leading by example. We provide the opportunity for all pupils in Year 5 and 6 to perform in the live musical concert, Young Voices, in the Genting Arena in Birmingham, performing choral pieces with a 6000 strong choir. Children have opportunities to study a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Peripatetic music teaching is organised by Music for Schools.

Impact:

Our varied music curriculum allows pupils to discover their strengths in music and we aim to build the confidence and skills of all our pupils. Pupils enjoy the freedom to be creative in a context where they can use their imagination whilst also making links to the wider curriculum. We want every child to engage fully in the musical opportunities given to them; to find their voice, their passion and use it to be connected to those around them.

Teachers work to find each child's unique way to access music and embrace the adventurous nature that music often represents. Our curriculum aims to improve the wellbeing of all children at St Vigor and St John School, not only through the skills taught, but through the underpinning values and disciplines music promotes. Our curriculum will promote listening and develop concentration. We want to ensure that music is loved by teachers and pupils across school, encouraging them to want to continue building on this wealth of musical ability, now and in the future.

Assessment

In music and PE the subject lead assesses children three times a year. We assess children by collecting evidence digitally which we then match against our progression documents. We complete assessments to monitor the quality of teaching and learning in these subjects. The information for each year group is collated by the subject lead and fed back to individual class teachers with suggestions for next steps or improvements. These assessments can be found using the QR code in each classes floor books.

SVSJ Music Development Plan

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	10/07/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	10/07/2025
Name of the school music lead	Chloe Mounter
Name of local music hub	Music Hub for Dorset and Somerset
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Music for Schools Foundation

Where are we now?	What will we do next?
Curriculum	
Our curriculum is inclusive and adventurous. All children from FS to Year 6 are taught using the Collins Express Music Scheme. This ensures that the quality of our covered curriculum is consistent and progressive throughout the school. It also ensures that children experience a variety of instruments. Lessons are taught weekly by class teachers. The children sing regularly, in weekly singing assemblies and at our whole school worships at St John's church. The children also sing throughout the wider curriculum, using music to support their understanding. For example, they may use songs to learn their times tables. Every whole school worship starts and ends with music. We have a 'Song of the Week' which is picked to fit alongside our PSHE focus for that term, or our Christian value for that term. We learn about the artist/composer and the period the song was written in.	Now that we have been using this scheme for a full academic year, we will do a staff survey to ensure staff feel confident teaching the music curriculum. Children should be given the opportunity to learn using Music Technology. This currently isn't happening consistently. Next year, year 5 will receive a unit of learning using music technology.
Instrumental tuition	

SVSJ Music Development Plan

Currently, we offer piano, woodwind, brass and guitar instrumental tuition with peripatetic music teachers. These lessons take place in a mixture of 1:1 sessions and group sessions.	Continue to look into the potential to provide a percussive instrument.
Through our music hub, we offer whole class instrument lessons in LKS2 and UKS2 for a full term. This year, it will be string instruments, previously it has been brass and woodwind.	
For 6 weeks, in LKS2 and UKS2, children have ukulele lessons using our school set of ukuleles. This is provided by a member of staff in school.	
Performance opportunities and beyond the curriculum	
In years 5 and 6, children attend the Young Voices concert in Birmingham. We spend the Autumn term learning the songs as part of our music provision and then, in January, we attend the concert to sing alongside thousands of other children. All pupils take part.	Find more opportunities for KS1 and FS children to perform. Provide children with more inspirational experiences such as visiting musicians.
Our KS2 school choir performs regularly at local events. We have previously sung at Strode Theatre, The Cheese and Grain in Frome and Wells Cathedral to name just a few!	
In Year 6, the children put on an end of year play at The Forum in Bath. Within this, the children learn a number of songs and sometimes children even play the instruments they've been learning that year.	

SVSJ Music Development Plan

Once a year, we put on a school 'spectacular' where any children who have had music tuition (whole class or private) are invited to perform. This year we had 110 pupils performing on stage at Downside School from FS to Year 6. We had a mix of instrument ensembles, instrument solos and our school choir.	
At Christmas, children who wanted to were invited to perform their instrument in a whole school worship. Parents were also invited to attend to watch.	
This year, we planned a whole school Olympic celebration with Downside School. Music featured heavily in this celebration with years 2 and 3 learning the French national anthem and the whole school singing in Downside Abbey	
We have had some visitors to the school showcasing different instruments but this year this has been exclusively to encourage children to take up instruments. We haven't had a visitor this year playing for the children to inspire awe and wonder. This is something we could do more of. In previous years, we have had visitors from around the world. ***Vulnerable Pupils*** All our activities and offers include all our vulnerable pupils. *No pupil misses out on any opportunity due to vulnerability.* We ensure that all places for all opportunities are fully-funded through school. The school use some of its PP money to ensure those children who want private music tuition are able to access it. Both our LAC pupils have fully-funded guitar tuition. Our choir for	

example has over 20% PPG representation and 3 EHCPs.	
Assessment	
In music, the subject lead assesses children three times a year. We assess children by collecting evidence digitally which we then match against our progression documents. We complete assessments to monitor the quality of teaching and learning in these subjects. The information for each year group is collated by the subject lead and fed back to individual class teachers with suggestions for next steps or improvements.	This is not happening regularly enough, next year we will ensure that the music lead is given more opportunities to review music teaching in classes.