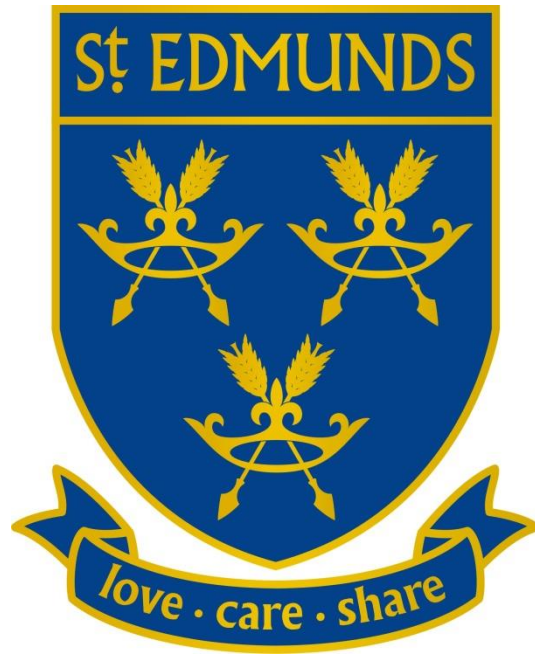


# **St Edmund's Catholic Primary School**



## **Music Policy**

**September 2020**

### **Aims and Objectives:**

Music ignites all areas of child development and helps them develop a variety of skills. Music is a way of communicating, it reflects the culture and society we live in, and therefore the teaching and learning of music enables children to gain a better understanding of the world they live in. It plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic subject. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop a variety of skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

### **The objectives of teaching music in our school are to enable children to:**

- know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is composed and written down;
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

### **Teaching and learning style:**

At St Edmund's we make music a creative and enjoyable learning experience. We encourage the children to engage in a wide variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the skills and the confidence of the children. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people, as we believe singing is at the core of good music teaching. Through singing the children are exposed to a wide range of skills including learning about the structure and organisation of music, they learn how to listen, appraise and appreciate different forms and styles of music. The children learn how to create music together, how to understand musical notation and how to compose pieces of their own. Children can also develop more descriptive skills through music when they are learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions.

### **Additional Music Teaching:**

Children are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with external Teachers from Enfield Music Service. This teaching can be provided in school although children can be taught externally. Parents who want their children to participate in lessons can get application forms from the front office. Parents can hire instruments and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. These lessons can be taught to individual, paired or small groups of children who have chosen to learn one of a variety of instruments, such as the guitar, keyboard and recorder. This is in addition to the normal music teaching of the school, but usually takes place during curriculum time.

As part of our relationship with the Enfield Music Service we receive funding towards whole school tuition. At present, this is used for a whole year group singing programme in Year 2 called Songsack which takes place in the summer term and whole class recorder tuition in

Year 3 which takes place in the Autumn and Spring terms. The funding for these programmes is topped by the school budget.

Here at St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School we are exceptionally proud of our school choir. Children from Year 5 and 6 audition at the start of each academic year to be a part of the choir. The choir has a capacity of 20 places yet we usually have over 60 children attending the auditions. The choir attend a weekly lunchtime practice with Mrs Pope and have enjoyed lots of success having been selected in the top three primary school choirs for the last four years.

### **Music Curriculum Planning:**

Our school uses the national curriculum as the basis for its planning. These objectives are then taught through the implementation of the Charanga Scheme. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

Our music planning is geared to three aspects of progress:

- increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
- increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities;
- increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music-making.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage:**

We teach music in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Early Years 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 (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. Counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability, and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

### **Assessment for Learning:**

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives oral feedback as necessary to inform future progress. Older pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. At the end of a unit of work, children complete a music passport as part of their own self-assessment. The teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum level of attainment, and records this assessment on scholar pack. We use this as the basis for assessing the progress of the child, and we pass this information onto the next teacher at the end of the year.

### **Resources:**

We keep resources for music in our music room. In addition to these, children are encouraged to use ICT provision in school to record, compose, enhance and publish their own compositions.

### **Musical Events:**

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have a school choir which we encourage all children in KS2 to join. The choir meets on a weekly basis and, although its primary aim is to enable children to enjoy singing together, it also performs in public on a number of occasions throughout the year.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for budding musicians to perform for the school community. This includes solo and ensemble performances as part of assemblies and concerts. This recognises their achievements and celebrates their success.

Year 6 take part in an end of year production, where they learn to sing different songs together, they are given opportunities to solo and duet and they perform to the school and their parents.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

The music subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching in music. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of music, being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic direction for music in the school. The subject leader is responsible for giving the head teacher an annual summary report in which they evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in the subject, and indicates areas for further improvement. The music subject leader has specially-allocated time for carrying out the vital task of reviewing samples of children's work and of visiting classes to observe teaching.

### **List of Regular Musical Events:**

Class assemblies – all year groups  
Hymn Practise/ Weekly Singing assemblies  
Year 3 Recorder Concert  
Harvest Festival  
Feast of St Edmund's  
Feast of All Saints  
Year 1 Christmas Nativity  
Year 2 Christmas Nativity  
KS2 Carol Concert  
KS1 Spring Partnership

KS2 Summer Partnership  
Liturgy of Our Lady  
Year 2 SongSack performance  
St Edmunds Evening of Music  
Year 6 Production

### **Music during Covid**

Music has continued during Covid, but the lessons have looked a little different. Due to being unable to sing since last year, the children have learnt to sign along to songs. The children have continued to listen and appraise songs, listen to songs from different cultures, play instruments (as long as they have been cleaned and quarantined in between each bubble), they have learnt about composers and taken part in body percussion. Instrument lessons from EMS have taken place virtually and programmes such as Recorders and SongSack have been rescheduled to a safer time.