



The Fairlawn and Haseltine Federation Music Policy 2015

Rationale

This policy outlines the purpose and management of the teaching and learning of music within the Federation. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff.

Aims and Objectives

Music is a powerful and unique form of communication that can change the way children feel, think and act. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic awareness, sensitivity and fulfilment. As an integral part of culture past and present, music making and appreciation aids social cohesion, focus and co-ordination, listening and academic learning. Research continues to show that children who do music from an early age do better in school than their peers who don't. It literally 'builds a better brain', aiding the development of a larger and more efficient corpus callosum (the bridge between the right and left hemispheres of the brain).

Singing is one of the most effective ways to learn and recall information. It is inclusive, socially interactive and releases endorphins into the bloodstream, enhancing mood and relieving stress. Rhythm and singing games improve children's focus, co-ordination, listening, maths and literacy skills. Singing is also an aerobic activity, improving circulation and posture. Using singing across the curriculum not only enhances learning, but offers personal, social, emotional and health benefits as well.

We will achieve these aims and objectives in the following ways:

- All children enjoy quality music lessons which have musical sound as the dominant language. This involves listening, performing, composing and appraising.
- Progression routes are available for those children who want to develop their musical skills further; by participating in extra-curricular music making activities. This includes choirs and instrumental groups.
- Extend and develop pupils' awareness and understanding of traditions, idioms and music styles from a variety of cultures, times and places.
- Develop through music, pupils' skills which contribute to learning across the curriculum.
- Children have performance opportunities throughout the year in assemblies, performances and concerts both in school and in the wider community.
- Singing is central to the life of the school.
- Parents are regularly informed about musical opportunities and events both in and out of school. They are invited to attend performances given by their children.

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- Children experience high quality live and recorded music and we hold a two week Spring Music Festival every year, in which children perform to their peers and parents. In addition, children attend professional performances and take part in workshops.

Teaching and Learning

- Music is used as a cross curricular tool for other subjects throughout the different Key Stages.
- Singing assemblies take place on a weekly basis. Confident singers are encouraged to become 'singing leaders' and are given opportunities to lead in assemblies, class lessons and public performances.
- Teachers direct and develop pupils' skills in performing and composition; which involves pupils working as a whole class, in smaller groups and individually.
- Assessment of children's musical learning is ongoing and ties in with the national curriculum. Assessment opportunities are identified in each unit of work and performances videoed. At the end of each unit teachers make note of those pupils who achieve higher or less well than the expected level for their age.
- Visiting teachers from Lewisham Music Service deliver whole class instrumental lessons. They give small group instrumental tuition to children who show potential during their whole class music lessons.
- The Music Specialist teaches or team teaches music lessons.
- Pupil premium children are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument free of charge.
- Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, music is included as part of *Expressive arts and design*. The children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing sounds.

Inclusion & Differentiation

Fairlawn School has a commitment to equal opportunities. Pupils from all backgrounds enjoy sustained musical opportunities through regular classroom work and music for all. This is complemented by additional tuition, partnerships and extra-curricular activities

Differentiation is achieved through careful planning, appropriate resources, teacher input and outcome.

Extra-Curricular Music

Children have the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments. These lessons are paid for by either the parents or the school.

Children are invited to join ensemble groups after learning an instrument for approximately a year. There are also extra-curricular choirs for KS1 and 2 children which perform regularly at local venues.

Partnerships and Visits

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We have strong links with the Lewisham Music Service. Classes are encouraged to visit outside venues such as the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican to participate in school's concerts. Outside visitors and musicians also supplement the varied music curriculum.

Resources

Music is well resourced and a range of tuned and untuned instruments are kept in the music room. Teachers are free to borrow resources as they require them. A variety of instruments are rented from Lewisham Music Service and are lent to children so that they can practice at home. The school owns a number of instruments which are also lent to children.

Roles and responsibilities

The subject leader is responsible for:

- Providing advice and assistance to all staff, in order to implement the music policy consistently throughout the school
- Devising a scheme of learning and monitoring it
- Monitoring the standard of the children's learning and quality of teaching throughout the school
- Organising resources to support the school music policy and scheme of work;
- Coordinating purchasing, organisation and distribution of resources;
- Arranging in-service support;
- To liaise with outside agencies, other schools and colleges;
- To monitor the Policy
- Organise and monitor the work of Lewisham Music Service teachers
- Organise whole school musical events
- Manage a delegated budget