

St Ives Infant & Nursery School - Music Statement

“Music is life itself”

Louis Armstrong

Intent

Our aim is for music lessons to be fun and inspiring, engaging the children with sounds, songs, lyrics and movement. Our children will be able to be reflective and be expressive, developing their own appreciation of music through the opportunities we provide as a school. All children are actively encouraged and given the opportunity to learn to play tuned and percussion musical instruments. Our musical learning is designed to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that are progressive from EYFS to end of KS1 as well as transferable to further education and beyond. Our children will be equipped with a rich musical vocabulary to help them better articulate their understanding in music. We will foster a love of musical creativity through celebrating a range of musical genres and styles from all around the world and through different historical periods.

Implementation

Our weekly music lessons are taught using the Charanga units. Each unit is underpinned by a knowledge organiser which sets out the key knowledge and vocabulary to be learnt. Prior learning is always revisited to allow the children to make connections between what they already know and the new learning. Key vocabulary is explicitly taught to ensure children can access the taught material and can communicate their own ideas and opinions accurately and confidently.

Each unit has a clear focus and musical skills have been carefully mapped to ensure year on year progression within the classroom. Charanga units will be taught using glockenspiels as the tuned instrument with a minimum of one between two so that all pupils have access. Charanga documentation ensures teachers are well-prepared and have good subject knowledge prior to teaching. Each Charanga unit has 6 clearly defined steps that build on the previous week's learning with consistent opportunities throughout a unit to listen and appraise a wide variety of musical genre. Musical games then introduce and reinforce the inter-related dimensions of music, with 3 levels providing both support and challenge, before a song or piece is introduced to facilitate practise and improvisation on tuned and untuned instruments. There is opportunity after each step for student practise so that skills can be evaluated, refined and rehearsed. Teachers model active playing and performing in each lesson. During the unit teachers will use questioning and observation to assess learning and will revise and reteach where necessary before moving on.

Impact

Children will be able to draw on their knowledge, skills and vocabulary to be able to express themselves confidently and critically evaluate the work of others. They will enjoy music for its own sake and recognise the value it brings to their lives. In addition, they will appreciate and celebrate cultural diversity and also the shared human connections that music brings. Participation in music will be a high for everyone, with no child feeling that music is 'not for them'. Our music curriculum and implementation encourages our children to be effective and active listeners as well as confident performers. Our children will be able to work independently and collaboratively, valuing and building on the input of others'. They will learn to accept and act on constructive criticism and view it as a way to improve and develop and be confident to express their own ideas and opinion.