

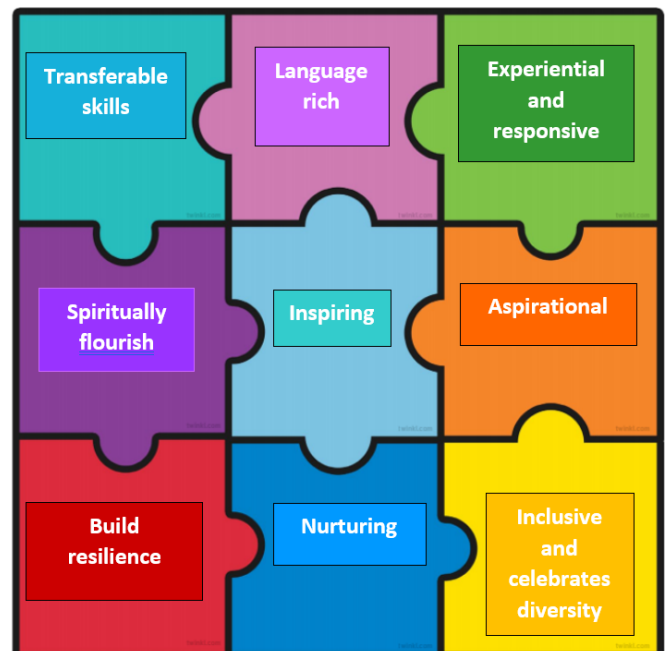
An Overview of the Music Curriculum at St Michael's



The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you plans to give you hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29 verse 11

We want music at St Michael's to be full of joy and accessible to all, regardless of background, age and previous musical experience. We believe Music is a gift from God that is used powerfully within St Michael's to help facilitate invitational worship that helps our pupils to flourish spiritually.

Pupils are introduced to the universal language of music where they can build upon skills, being challenged and supported appropriately in order to unlock their musical potential. Music provides an opportunity for us to promote the arts as a means for all children to communicate, regardless of academic ability or language acquisition. It also provides the opportunity to inspire our children and support the development of cultural capital for them through the range of music and performance opportunities experienced.



Our curriculum allows children to listen to and appraise a wide range of music as well as getting hands on experience experimenting, playing, improvising, composing and also performing, showcasing the skills learned at all levels. In this way they can develop resilience and a 'can do' attitude as well as a sense of achievement. Because it is a very practical subject and uses language heavily, music gives progressive opportunities to develop language skills as well as awareness of others in their communication skills – articulating views and feelings clearly through discussing opinions, collaborating and disagreeing well, helping them to develop positive relationships.

All children in KS2 will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and to perform to friends and family regularly, regardless of how long they have been learning, to gain confidence and a love of sharing music. Throughout the school, opportunities are given to all children to have developed a love of and skill in singing in particular.

Learning in music is progressive and delivered as a discrete subject. The design of the learning ensures that we deliver the acquisition of musical skills and knowledge in a way that shows clear progression from year to year. Music at St Michael's uses an integrated, practical and exploratory approach to musical learning; we follow a sequential and progressive approach focusing on the acquisition of skills that are built upon and developed as the children move through the school.

At St Michael's, we use the Charanga music resource but also supplement it with whole class instrument teaching delivered by specialists from the Wolverhampton Music Service. Memorable experiences are also provided through school plays and church services, visitors, and preparing to perform at outside events such as Young Voices; these

are designed to inspire children of all abilities and develop cultural capital. Parents are regularly invited into school to watch their children's performances.

Additional opportunities exist in the form of the school choir and instrumental tuition. Choir is run as an extra-curricular club available to Key Stage 2 pupils where they sing a mixture of Christian and secular songs. Individual instrument tuition is available for brass and violin through the Music Service and performances are celebrated at Christmas and summer concerts.

Formative developmental assessment is carried out each lesson in order to challenge and support specific children when needed, to move their learning on. Summative assessment is carried out against a progressive set of statements specific to each year group covering the knowledge and skills within the National Curriculum including Listening & Appraising, Musical Activities and Performing.

This model of implementation is underpinned by strong pastoral provision for pupils and their families and the distinctly Christian ethos of the school.

We measure the impact of our music curriculum through assessment for learning opportunities, recordings of performances, pupil and parent voice feedback, data analysis and learning observations. Through these forms of continuous and robust assessment, the particular talents, gifts, interest and curiosity of individuals are identified and nurtured to ensure personal motivations and ambitions are encouraged and fostered. As a result, our pupils are confident, articulate and enthused by their learning, and are keen to share the knowledge they have acquired.

Pupils' good behaviour is a result of their positive engagement in the curriculum on offer. Pupils attain well, make outstanding progress from their starting points and aspire to be the best they can be. Many children who have been learning instruments express a desire to continue their music tuition at secondary school with some joining bands inside and outside of school.

Pupils have a love and enjoyment of music driven by the opportunities they have been given; they develop skills and knowledge through a range of performing opportunities, particularly in singing. Children's confidence to showcase their skills grows throughout their primary school experience due to the supportive and encouraging atmosphere within school. We know we have succeeded when pupils leave year 6 fully prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.