



'Where every child can become a musician and express themselves when words fail them'

The importance of music.

At St Stephens Tockholes, we ensure that music and singing are 'a golden thread' interwoven throughout the whole school day. Music is a means of breaking down the barriers and exploring diversity, language, and cultural differences. As a Church of England school, music is an imperative part of our worship; providing opportunity for praise and prayer whilst developing our unique sense of small community. Music is enjoyed by the children, parents, and staff together as we join as one family at every opportunity, with music performances at the heart of our celebrations. As a small and personal school, we aim to bring happiness, support positive wellbeing, and nurture children's talents by providing as many opportunities as possible to practice, perform, and express creativity. Music is an important part our curriculum for the diverse range of children that we have at St Stephen's, and we aim to foster a sense of awe and wonder through spiritual and musical collaboration.

INTENT statement -

At our school we intend to allow our children to express themselves fully through the exploration of instruments, dedication and practice through tuition, and allowing creativity whilst composing and improvising. We provide our children with a broad and balanced curriculum in KS1 that teaches the inter-related dimensions of music through listening, composing, and performing. In KS2, we offer a progressive sequence of lessons built on previous knowledge and acquired skills using the expertise of our local music hub. All of our children will be able to listen and understand, create, and play music in a way that enhances their learning opportunities, both musically and across the curriculum. We aim for children to be exposed to a wide variety of music from different parts of the world; exploring culture, appreciating diversity, and understanding how music adds value to our lives both in the present and the past, in our small community and the wider world. Not only will our children explore a wide variety of musical genres, but will build upon their skills in small increments through tuition and small- step learning, giving them the tools to play music from standard notation, create genre-specific pieces, and record them in appropriate ways.

Implementation.

We follow a broad and balanced Music curriculum that builds on previous learning and provides both support and challenge for learners. We now follow the 'PKC' music scheme in KS1 which gives our youngest children the opportunity to listen, perform, and compose music related to different countries and genres, whilst providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for when they begin to play tuned musical instruments through tuition in KS2. Our phonics scheme has songs interspersed throughout the sessions to support reading and listening skills. Our Key stage one children explore their voices, percussion instruments, and simple tuned instruments to develop their ability to understand pitch and melody. We are currently giving our KS2 children the opportunity to learn to play the ukulele, (In previous years some of our KS2 children had the opportunity to learn to play a brass instrument), providing the chance for children to be resilient, read standard notation with confidence, and explore the different elements of music whilst learning to play an instrument with a specialist provider; Bolton Music Service.

At St Stephen's we also provide a weekly half-hour 'Prayer and Praise' session that brings the whole school together to learn and sing songs; praising God and being thankful for everything that we have. Our school

values are embedded throughout our Prayer and Praise sessions, where community, hope, and love are present as the children learn complex worship songs, control their voices, and allow each person to shine individually.

Music is embedded in our worship calendar, and the children prepare and perform songs as a whole school, in year groups, small groups, and as individuals; sharing love and happiness through song. We have a fantastic choir available to all KS2 children and are lucky enough to attend numerous local events where we collaborate with other schools and perform. We have been part of 'The Big Sing', a sponsored sing, sharing love, laughter, and our faith in God with local hospitals and nursing homes, and perform in a multi-school, bi-annual end-of-year performance at our local theatre. We work toward performances where we can invite our parents in to share the skills and musicianship that we have learned when in our KS2 ukulele lessons. We want to ensure that secular music lessons are a non-negotiable each week, but that any cross-curricular opportunity to explore music is taken, and that music is shared often throughout the school day in classrooms, on the playground, and in worship times.

Impact

As our children are constantly exposed to music, their musicianship skills develop quickly and in consistent increments. Our entire curriculum builds strategically on the skills that children currently have and will put children in a secure place to take music as a specialist subject in secondary school or provide a secure foundation for a career. We foster a love of exploration, musical tuition, and understanding of the world which leaves children valuing individual identity, and cultural capital whilst being interwoven with the Christian faith.