



Music at Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy

Curriculum Rationale

Music at Archbishop Cranmer is designed to deliver a high-quality music education in which the skills needed to make music are taught such as listening, appraising, composing and performing. The underlying aim is to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music, to offer opportunities to foster their talent as musicians, and to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Curriculum Content and Sequencing

Music at Archbishop Cranmer in Key Stage 1 and 2 is taught primarily through the Sparkyard scheme. The scheme covers the objectives from the National Curriculum in ensuring that all pupils: perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. The essential skills needed to make music are taught such as listening, appraising, composing and performing. All pupils participate in whole school singing during assemblies and weekly hymn practice and enjoy performing in class and school productions. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach all the musical elements, e.g. pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations, which can be taught either together or as separate units of work.

Cross Curricular Links inc. SMSC

Music arrangements and song choices linked where possible to curriculum areas, and to help with sticky knowledge, for example:
Science: Weather, animals, plants. Geography: Compass points and continents.
Maths: Counting songs and rhymes, directional language and helping to embed concepts in a different way, shape, times tables
English: Composing own songs, speaking and listening skills. Traditional tales
RE: Musical celebrations and performances are linked to key religious festivals: Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas.
History: Significant dates such as VE Day and Remembrance Day and events such as The Great Fire of London.
Daily collective worship offers the chance to listen and appreciate different musical genres as well as coming together to sing and sign songs as a school.

Support and Training

Sparkyard resources and lesson plans.
School subscription to Sparkyard Music to ensure high quality teaching of songs and harmonies accessible to all including non music specialists.
Opportunities for shared good practice and signposting to additional resources.
Music resources stored in staff room cupboard and outdoor instruments are situated in the Foundation outdoor area.
External providers provide whole class instrument tuition including ukulule, toots and trombone.
External visitors and musicians promoting music.
Peripatetic teachers offer piano, drumming and guitar lessons..
Specialist teachers lead hymn practice and offer support with musical arrangements and whole school performance of songs.

Progress and Assessment

Sparkyard builds experience and develops understanding of the dimensions (elements) of music throughout the scheme. Each unit has, as its focus, on processes such as performance or composition, or one dimension, such as pitch, but the learning progresses within the context of all the inter-related processes and dimensions of music. A wide variety of notations, including picture, graphic, rhythm and staff notation are integrated, wherever appropriate, with practical music-making activities throughout the scheme. Notations are used progressively to promote understanding and use of the representation of sound in symbols by all children.

Big Ideas

To become familiar with a range of composers and musical genres through the ages.

To recognise the power and impact of music in improving well-being and its impact in communicating messages, views and opinions.

To show awareness of how music can be enjoyed in different ways by learning how to sign songs.

Culture of Opportunity

Performing in an arena as part of a national choir through Young Voices. Offering an insight into the power of music and performance celebrating cultural diversity and raising awareness of real-life stories of joy over adversity through opportunities such as seeing the Watoto Choir.

Joining with other community and school choirs to share experiences and good practice: Rushcliffe Council; Aslockton Hall and Barnby Road Academy.

Pupils regularly given the opportunity to showcase their talents during Celebration assemblies.

Pupils are taught how to sign songs and singing hands songs are used in KS1 during brain breaks.

