

# Abingdon Primary School

## Music Policy

Music is a practical subject, linking sounds to provide enjoyment. It is regarded as a crucial part of every child's education, since creativity and learning go hand in hand. Without creativity, many skills cannot be sufficiently developed. At Abingdon Primary School musical skills are taught to all children through the following main areas:

- Performing - playing, singing, presenting
- Composing - exploring, refining, improvising
- Listening and appraising - discussing, analysing, understanding

It is ensured that the children have experience in all the musical areas to provide them with skills they can continue to build upon themselves if they so wish.

### Aims

The aims of music teaching at school are as follows:

- Give the children some knowledge and understanding of all areas of music;
- Enable children to explore music from different parts of the world, including from their own culture;
- Enable children to experience music in many different contexts as linked to other areas of the curriculum;
- Give children the opportunity to perform individually and with others for different audiences;
- Give children the opportunity to compose music in different styles both individually, and with others;
- Give children the opportunity to listen to, and appraise various styles of music, including those composed by peers;
- Enable children to experience musical possibilities with ICT;
- Enable children to participate in musical activities as an individual, group, class and school;
- Give the children the opportunity to listen to (live) and experience many different musical instruments;
- Give the children the opportunity to develop critical and analytic skills with regards to music.

## **Planning**

The school is currently following the Charanga scheme of work. Teachers can add to the units where necessary with their own ideas and enthusiasms relating to the topic being studied. It begins in Reception, and continues through Key Stages 1 and 2. This is also supplemented with teachers' own ideas and suggestions for musical development. Charanga also gives guidance for teaching activities and helpful advice for those teachers with little or no musical knowledge

Music in the Foundation Stage is implemented against developmental matters, ensuring children are provided with musical opportunities to explore and share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. In Reception, the Charanga scheme runs alongside continuous opportunities to sing, explore, play instruments, listen and match movements to music.

There is also opportunity provided for enthusiastic and able children to participate in the School Choir and take part in the Steel Pan Band. Ukuleles are taught from Y5 and children in Y6, who have taken part in this, also have the opportunity to join the Ukulele Club.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children, including those in the Early Years, are able to enjoy music regardless of origin, behaviour, special needs or English as an additional language. Children with different languages are encouraged to sing songs in all languages.

It is also noted that all children are able to learn a wide range of instruments regardless of gender. Music is created through hands on experiences, thus allowing participation from children of all backgrounds.

Teachers' enthusiasms for music can also promote further development in musical skills. Where a teacher is unsure of something, he/she can work together with the children to find an answer, thus enhancing the children's will to succeed. This also applies to bi-lingual members of staff who can also promote music in different languages and support children's understanding of musical ideas in their mother tongue.

## **Health and Safety**

There are a few safety precautions that are met at Abingdon Primary School:

- All electrical equipment is managed by adults;
- Any heavy instruments (such as glockenspiels and steel pans) are lifted with care and by two or more children or adults;
- Seating plans are managed effectively to ensure instrument placed on the floor can be seen, and no-one needs to walk over them;
- Any instruments being blown are always cleaned with antiseptic before and after use;
- Any storage of all instruments is secure and within reach for adults;
- Children are encouraged to seek help with the moving of equipment, and talked through the safety guidelines above.

## **Resources**

There are many resources that can be found around school.

Resources include:

- Steel pans
- Ukuleles
- Recorders
- Xylophones
- Glockenspiels
- Cymbals
- Tambourines
- Shakers
- Storyboards
- Theory books
- Music box books and CDs
- CDs and tapes
- Keyboards
- Charanga (online)

School is in the process of replenishing and replacing any broken or lost instruments to ensure that the children have the very best equipment to use.

## **Assessment**

The school is currently considering methods of assessment in music:

- To formally assess standards of music interpretation and playing;
- To have an awareness of children showing a gifted attitude.

**Jo Khelifi (Art lead)**

**October 2017**

**Review Date: October 2018**