

Intent

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything,” Plato.

At St Weonards Academy, we intend that every child shall enjoy their opportunities to learn about music in all its forms – to enjoy the opportunity to make music, listen to and appreciate it and understand the specialist aspects of it – its language, its patterns and its notation. We want our children to enjoy performing together, and to see the links between music and performance across the Arts. We intend through teaching of the National Curriculum for music to ensure 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
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Implementation

At St Weonards Academy, the music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the weekly singing assemblies and performances. In a weekly assembly, all pupils are exposed to The BBC Ten pieces scheme enabling the children to have broad experience of musical genre and composers.

Through the musical program Charanga, teachers are able to produce inclusive lessons for all children to access the National Curriculum in a fun and engaging way, further promoting a love of learning. Teachers deliver music following the Charanga programme, designed specifically for the teaching of music in primary schools. A steady progression plan has been built into Charanga, both within each year and from one year to the next, ensuring consistent musical development. The programme incorporates the use of technologies such as ‘Garage Band’, enabling the children to compose their own pieces.

Charanga lessons are planned in sequences to provide children with the opportunities to review, remember, deepen and apply their understanding. The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

In Key Stage 2, children learn how to play a tuned instrument as well as a variety of percussion. Playing instruments enables children to use a range of methods to create notes, as well as how to read basic music notation. They also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music.

All pupils will have the experience of watching and appraising virtual performances but also live performances e.g. Music on the Move.

Impact

All pupils will benefit from a high-quality music education which engages and inspires them to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. It will increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they will develop a growing musical vocabulary that allows them to critically engage with music. Teaching and learning of music is a reflective process for the children as they are given the opportunities to assess themselves and their peers. Children learn musically, both independently and as part of a group, ensuring skills of resilience and teamwork are promoted in this subject.

We assess music through pupil interviews about their learning, teacher assessment, pictures and video evidence which capture each child's progress throughout the year. The children also celebrate their success and skills with their peers and wider audiences. Our pupils are excited and inspired to participate in both local productions and national performances (Young Voices) where they have the opportunity to shine.