



# Birkdale Primary School

2025-2027

## Music Policy

## Our mission statement and aims:

### 'Attainment through Caring, Challenge and Creativity'

- Y Where caring and respect for others are the responsibility of all who belong here. So that they may grow to understand our individual uniqueness and learn to love and respect the world in which we live in.
  
- Y Where the potential within us all is encouraged to flourish without fear or prejudice. So that we can learn to become all that we are meant to be.
  
- Y Where creativity has a pre-eminent place in the life and the work of the school. So that we may celebrate our own achievements and those of others.

## Introduction

*Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young.*

(Aristotle)

*Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything... Without music, life would be an error.*

(Plato)

Music inspires creativity and imagination. It encourages listening skills, critical thinking and helps children to develop the ability to express personal thoughts and feelings. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgments about the quality of music.

## National Curriculum

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. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination.

### Aims

The national curriculum for music aims 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.

### Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

### Key stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically

- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

### Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

## **Teaching and Learning**

The teaching and learning of music at Birkdale Primary School is exciting and motivating. We encourage children to listen to and critique music from a wide variety of genres and periods in history, allowing all pupils to express their opinions in a safe and friendly environment.

Our school uses the Kapow Primary Scheme of Work which has been created for use in the classroom to support teaching and aid pupils' learning. This is a teacher-led scheme produced by music specialists which allows teachers to deliver quality music lessons whilst ensuring national curriculum objectives are met. The scheme provides the teacher with detailed lesson plans, covering a variety of genres, styles and music pieces, and provides children opportunities to compose, listen, appraise and perform.

Music in nursery is explored through song and creating sounds with objects, instruments and body parts. Teachers from Reception to Year 6 follow the Kapow progression of music skills and knowledge, and are given access to the necessary resources and tools to confidently teach music, regardless of being a music specialist or generalist teacher.

KS1 and KS2 have access to various tuned and untuned instruments which are available to use during lessons to supplement learning.

## **SEN and Additional Needs**

We recognise that some pupils may need additional support or guidance to access the Music Curriculum in order to make good progress. Teachers understand the importance of adapting their teaching, lessons and resources. Each lesson of Kapow music offers suggestions on how to adapt teaching for children needing extra support and those who are working at greater depth.

## **Additional Music Teaching**

We believe music should play an integral part in the day to day life of Birkdale Primary School. As a result of this ethos, children across KS1 and KS2 are given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through WCET (Whole Class Ensemble Tuition) by specialist tutors from Sefton Music Services. Classes work to develop their musical skills through these sessions, putting their theoretical knowledge into practice.

Children across Reception to Year 6 have the opportunity to be part of iRock Music bands, which are facilitated by our school and are run by music tutors from iRock. The children work in 'bands' to learn collaboration and performance skills.

At Birkdale Primary School, we also offer a variety of small group tuition sessions such as piano, guitar, ukulele and flute across KS1 and KS2 to provide more musical

opportunities for our students.

These extra curricular activities offer children the opportunity to then present their pieces to parents and during in-school assemblies, to allow children to demonstrate their newly learned skills to an audience.

We ensure music runs through many different aspects of school life, not just in the classroom. We have set up three music after-school clubs which allow children to express their music and work with like-minded children to help connect through music. Our KS1 and KS2 choirs give children the opportunity to sing as a group and express their passions and feelings by using their voice in a positive way. Children in our choirs are given many opportunities to perform to peers, teachers, parents and families throughout the year which encourages them to work hard and take pride in their talents and achievements.

Music Technology club ensures children with a love of music are given the chance to express their musicality in new ways and explore their ability to create their own music using new and exciting technology. We use a range of free music software and websites that children learn to use and create their own compositions.

## **Assessment for Learning**

Children show their musical ability in many different ways. Teachers assess this ability informally during lessons and formally against objectives based on the national curriculum. Pupils are assessed at the end of the year using learning outcomes under the three strands of music:

- Composing
- Listening
- Performing

## **Role of the Subject Leader**

There is one subject leader for music and their role is to ensure that all children are provided with a quality musical education by monitoring the use of the scheme of work and supporting teaching staff and teaching assistants where necessary. It is also the role of the subject leader to ensure pupils have access to peripatetic music lessons and extra-curricular clubs. They are expected to monitor and maintain resources throughout the school and inform staff of any courses or developments to the music curriculum. Above all, the subject leader should share a passion and enthusiasm for music with pupils throughout the school and be a firm advocate for the subject.