

## **Music Curriculum Statement**

### **2021 - 2022**

#### **Intent**

At Alverton we are passionate about the importance of The Arts in the curriculum. We want to enrich our pupil's lives, give them the chance for self-expression and prepare them for life after school and music is central to this. Music threads its way throughout the whole school life of all children, in and out of the classroom, throughout the day and through discrete music lessons. Our aim is to expose children to a wide range of performers, musical styles and cultures, provide an understanding of how music is created, create real opportunities for musical performance and instil in children the confidence to develop their own taste. The New Model Music Curriculum has provided a rich and practical framework that will ensure all pupils have the tools to not only succeed but develop a love of the subject, alongside developing teachers' confidence in delivering quality musical experiences.

Following Covid-19, we have increased our focus on basic skills and meeting any learning "gaps" as well as having a whole-school priority of children's mental and physical health and wellbeing. It is well documented that singing and music can be extremely beneficial for all ages. At Alverton, we recognise the therapeutic benefits of music and the peace and well-being that listening to music, taking part in singing or musical performance can bring to a child who may be suffering from poor mental health.

We are currently working towards The Arts Mark Award which will involve a full self-assessment and plan for the future of Music in the school. We intend to involve the pupils as much as possible throughout the process.

#### **Implementation**

We place great importance on giving children a wide range of musical and dramatic experiences throughout their whole time at Alverton. Each year, all pupils take part in class sharing assemblies, Christmas performances and a number of community events. We take part in Cornish Music Hub events such as Songfest, performances at the Hall for Cornwall, theatre and dance workshops at the Minack Theatre as well as singing out in the community each Christmas. Alverton is known for its annual musical production which is extremely professional and plays to packed houses.

Singing is very highly valued at Alverton. We have a weekly singing assembly for each phase, learning traditional hymns alongside a wide range of modern songs which link with the New Model Curriculum. We run a Key Stage 2 choir which performs in and out of school and we also have a lunchtime singing club. Each morning our children arrive to school, there will be music playing from a wide range of genre in the classroom. Pre-covid, our Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert was a wonderful celebration of singing and music with a staff choir performing each year. We are currently doing phase performances and will continue to do a staff carol that will be recorded.

Every class has dedicated music slot in their weekly timetable and short ten minute slots are used to provide specific listening time which might link to the recommended list on the New Model or through Minute of Listening. We use the online Charanga and Music Express scheme of work to provide a clear path of progression through the key stages. Each phase has a two year rolling programme which they have mapped out using either Music Express or Charanga, linking units to community events where possible. Every child has access to an iPad and Garage Band is used in Key Stage 2 to develop composition skills. Each LKS2 class receives a terms whole class instrument unit taught by a music specialist with the teacher present which provides excellent CPD for teachers. We have now introduced lunchtime clubs which provide valuable performance and development for the recorder in LKS2 and ukulele in UKS2.

A number of peripatetic teachers provide paid tuition in guitar, violin, woodwind and drums and we provide time for those pupils and other instrumentalists to receive 1:1 and small group instrumental support from our music specialist in school. We are currently waiting for planning permission for a dedicated music room

which will be used across the whole day for peripatetic teachers and our in-school specialist who will deliver instrument lessons to pupils in LKS2 who have been identified as having low self-esteem/low self-confidence.

Our annual musical production gives pupils the opportunity to learn dances from a skilled choreographer and ex-performer as well as having singing tuition (often individually) from an expert singing teacher. The whole experience enmeshes children in a world of music, song, dance and performance and is unmissable for children in UKS2.

We build instrumental performance opportunities throughout the year for any child who wants to take part and work with peripatetic teachers to help pupils learn pieces that will be used in school. Bands are formed for events, for example Samba bands for Mazey or a string quartet to provide backing for a Beatles song. This fluid approach gives pupils with a wide scope of abilities the chance to perform and builds their confidence and motivation to learn an instrument. This access for all approach helps many children who need pastoral support to build their sense of self-esteem and confidence.

In the nursery and EYFS, children have access to percussion instruments in the learning environment. They are taught to follow a steady beat, create their own musical patterns and explore different sounds. Children are encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds that instruments make and to incorporate them into storytelling recitals. Children in the EYFS sing daily through transition songs, nursery rhymes and simple songs that are incorporated into their topic work.

Alverton School loves music. We invite bands to perform at our school fair, have teachers who wander through the school singing and play music whenever possible. However, we always aim to make it even better.

Our curriculum is fully inclusive and we ensure all children have the same entitlement to a broad curriculum by making adaptations where needed. Both music schemes provide excellent visual prompts and key skills are constantly re-visited and re-enforced in lessons and skill builders. In whole class instrument lessons, the teacher can provide additional support for any pupils.

### **Impact**

We have achieved the Cornwall Gold Singing School Award for commitment to whole school vocal development.

Over the last three years, there has been a marked increase in the number of children learning an instrument with a peripatetic teacher or within school. Currently there are 75 children attending peripatetic music lessons. We now have performing groups of violins, ukuleles, keyboards and guitars who support whole school songs and choir performances.

The school choir has gone from strength to strength with numbers increasing each year; our current choir consists of 50 children from Years 3, 4 and 5. A new lunchtime club dedicated to song writing has begun.

About 50 children from Years 5 and 6 and a further 40 from Years 3 and 4 take part in our annual musical production which is of an exceptionally high standard. Please see [https://alverton.eschools.co.uk/website/musical\\_productions\\_1/210026](https://alverton.eschools.co.uk/website/musical_productions_1/210026) for further details about these.

All school staff are involved in choosing the range of music from varied artists, composers and cultures which is played daily and which ensures that children are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of music which they might otherwise not encounter. Staff have the confidence to teach music using Music Express and understand key music terminology after CPD sessions.

A dedicated music space is being planned, an outdoor stage is about to be built and we are hoping to use these to give pupils and community musicians the chance to perform here during the summer term.

