

Highfield School Music Policy

Subject Leader: Mr T Newman

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Rationale

Music is a compulsory subject in the National Curriculum and is a powerful, unique form of communication, music is valued part of the curriculum at Highfield School.

Music plays an important role in providing opportunities for personal expression, reflection and emotional development, therefore enhancing the learning in all other areas of the Curriculum.

Our school policy for music supports the aims of the school in that it helps children to become independent learners who are self-accepting. Music helps to motivate children and helps them to enjoy their experiences. It also provides opportunities for children to learn together, in a collaborative way, which is one of the most important aspects of arts education.

Music is a powerful medium in influencing and addressing human emotion and life experience. For our group of children, music is a very important source of well-being and comfort. Our children benefit from their experience of making music and listening to it. This is more important to them than the technical knowledge of music. Through music making the children acquire a range of skills, knowledge and understanding. These include refining ideas and making judgements, using their imagination and creativity. This leads to becoming sensitive to the ways in which related sounds and silences communicate ideas and feelings.

Music is about having fun.

Music Department

The music room is very well equipped and has excellent facilities to promote the exploration of a wide range of musical ideas. To aid the teaching and learning of music, the following musical resources are available:

- Guitars
- Keyboards
- Ukulele's
- Percussion instruments
- iPads/Garage Band
- Drum Kit
- Mac Computer
- 2 practice rooms

The music department is staffed with a specialist music teacher, music therapists and teaching assistants who are extremely skilled in providing appropriate support to meet the needs of the children.

The teaching of music is enhanced by two Peripatetic music teachers.

Benefits

Music is fun

Our children are intrinsically drawn to music. Music is diverse and exciting. It engages them, improves their mood and helps them focus.

Music relieves stress

Music is a great stress relieving tool that helps to calm and soothe the mind and enhance concentration.

Music can help with memory

Learning songs and playing instruments can enhance memory development. Listening to, singing, or moving to music helps to increase reading ability, memorization skills, vocabulary recall and creativity.

Music is a form of self- expression

Music helps our children to manage their feelings better by expressing them through language as they sing songs.

Music can boost self confidence

Through music making, the children acquire a range of skills, knowledge and understanding. Our children learn best in practical activities and they feel very satisfied when they improve their abilities with a specific instrument. By developing our children's love of music and their talent as musicians, their self-confidence will be increased.

Music can improve social skills

Through music, children develop a sense of togetherness by working in groups and learning together in a collaborative way.

Music can support physical and mental wellbeing.

Music Therapy

Music Therapy is a specialist use of music that aims to facilitate physical and emotional wellbeing. It helps with the development and retention of key communication skills, cognitive abilities and motor coordination. Our children benefit greatly from music therapy. Music therapy helps to reduce anxiety and channels feelings such as frustration into creative

forms of expression and communication. A wide range of instruments can be used in music therapy, including the voice. The music created is often improvised.

Music Therapists support the children to develop their own ways of being musical in order to explore their potential and connect with the world around them.

In the hands of a trained practitioner, music therapy can be used to support children living with a wide range of needs.

Some children, with identified needs, will have the opportunity to take part in Music Therapy sessions on a weekly basis with one of our three Music Therapists.

Mr M Munday - Tuesday

Mr T Newman - Morning Interventions

Aims

It is our aim to teach the children to: -

- 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
- Create and compose music on their own and with others
- Have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately
- 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 musical elements: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Objectives in music.

- To create opportunities for class music making, using singing, composing, listening, appraising and performing.
- Providing musical opportunities at whole school level, in the form of assemblies, performances, and religious and cultural festivals.
- Activities involving visiting instrument teachers for workshop sessions.
- A range of new activities supported by the Music Subject Leader.
- Community links. A range of experiences involving visiting performers and activities where members of the community attend performances.
- Full access to music to meet children's learning needs through sensitive differentiation and successful experiences.

Planning

- Planning for music carried out in the classroom is the responsibility of the Music subject leader.
- The school uses the equal's online scheme of work to teach music for our complex needs classes thus ensuring full coverage of both the Early Learning Goals.
- KS3 learn about a variety of different topics and the National Curriculum Programme of study.
- Tasks within the scheme of work maybe differentiated to pupils abilities in order that goals are achievable.

Key stage 3

Pupils are taught to:

- Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
- Play instruments musically.
- Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
- Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds.

For more information please refer to the KS3 Long Term Plan.

(Staff Shared-Teaching & Learning-Subject Leaders-Music- SOW- KS3- Long Term Plan)

Key stage 4

Students who choose to study music in KS4 will follow the WJEC CBAC Creative, Media and Performance Arts Entry Pathways.

This is a 2 year course and the students will complete the following modules:

- Solo Performance
- Ensemble Performance
- Composing Music
- Appraising Music

Pupils are taught to:

- Play and perform in solo and group contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
- Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes.

- Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds.
- Use and understand some 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.

For more information please refer to the KS4 Long Term Plan.

(Staff Shared- Teaching & Learning- Subject Leaders- Music- SOW- KS4- Long Term Plan)

Semi-Formal

We follow the Equals Curriculum for the complex needs classes. These Schemes of Work have been written by teachers who have expertise in Special Education. They were currently teaching pupils who were working below age related expectations. The information has also been reviewed and critically reviewed by another group of teaching professionals, including Head Teachers and School Inspectors.

For more information please refer to Complex Needs Long Term Plan.

(Staff Shared- Teaching & Learning- Subject Leader- Music- SOW- Complex Needs- Long Term Plan)

Assessment

- The music scheme provides end of unit expectations. The level descriptions provide the basis for making an overall judgement of pupil's performance and progress.
- Examples of work evolved from the units can be kept as evidence of progression, as well as recordings of compositions and musical performances and when available, photographic evidence.
- Performances, either by individual classes, or whole school, can also be used to assess children's capabilities within the music curriculum.

Extra-Curricular

In addition to weekly class lessons the music curriculum is enhanced through extra-curricular music clubs.

- Highfield School Choir
- Highfield School Band
- Highfield School Ukulele Orchestra
- Music Club
- Musical Theatre/Pantomime Club

Our extra-curricular ensembles get plenty of opportunities to perform throughout the year.

Concerts

- Christmas Carols at Leeds Town Hall
- Christmas Carols on Ossett High Street
- Christmas Pantomime
- Christmas Showcase
- Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett
- Summer Show
- School Coffee mornings/open days
- School Events
- School Assemblies

Instrumental Lessons

Peripatetic music teachers from Wakefield Music Service offer our student's instrumental lessons.

The cost for these weekly lessons is £63 per term which is payable to Wakefield Music Services.

Mr J Fletcher- Guitar and Brass

Mr J Whitley- Drums

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our children is of great importance. Therefore the following guidelines will be followed in order to ensure our children's safety.

- To take out any necessary risk assessments for music related trips.
- The Music teacher will take responsibility for the safety of instruments to be used in class.
- Musical instruments will be checked regularly to ensure that they are in good repair.
- The sharing of blown instruments will not be permitted.
- All musical instruments to be stored safely.

The role of the teacher in charge of music

- The teacher in charge of music will take responsibility for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning
- To support colleagues when needed with musical ideas.
- To maintain the music room and musical instruments.

Highfield School Music Policy

- To liaise with the peripatetic music teachers and teachers from other schools
- To organise musical events
- Coordinate the development of cohesive and effective medium and long term plans and share with other deliverers.
- Ensure that all planning meets all Curriculum requirements and pupils individual needs
- Determine the public examination syllabuses offered in their subject in accordance with school and department policy.