

# Altham St. James' Music Policy



## Our Mission Statement

Living our lives as Jesus wants us to

- Be the best that we can be
- Respect the world and everyone in it
- Love, Forgive and reconcile

*John 15:12 Love each other as I have loved you*

## Aims and objectives

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. 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 judgements about the quality of music.

The objectives of teaching music in our school are to enable 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 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 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

### Teaching and learning style

At Altham School, we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer, and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces.

### Additional music teaching

Children, from Year 3 upwards, are offered the opportunity to learn the guitar. Lancashire Music Services provide these lessons and parents pay on a half -termly basis. The lessons take place on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Children from Year 3 upwards also have the opportunity to use keyboards and recorders, glockenspiels and xylophones to compose, extend their own learning and 'showcase' what they know.

### Music curriculum planning

Our school uses Charanga Creative Curriculum as the basis for its curriculum planning. This is a complete scheme with a library of songs, topics, instruments and creative apps. There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

The music curriculum will be differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND, by adapting activities, resources, and expectations as appropriate, ensuring that all pupils can access and benefit from music education.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage

We teach music in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. Counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability, and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. Reception children have a weekly lesson following the Charanga Creative Scheme.

### Key Stage 1

Following the Charanga scheme of work, KS1 have adopted a two-year cycle, considering the mixed age class. The scheme covers the national curriculum to ensure all pupils experience the following: performance, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of great composers and musicians.

Children learn to sing, create and compose music. They have opportunities to play musical instruments and 'show-case' their talents. Children who show a talent and interest in a particular instrument are 'signposted', with their parents, on the ways to develop their skills further.

### Key Stage 2

In KS2, we continue to follow the Charanga scheme of work. Wherever possible, work is linked to topics and performances. As with KS1, the scheme covers the national curriculum and the units are progressive.

### Assessment for learning

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Staff will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and also while participating in musical events and productions. On completion of a

piece of work, it is assessed and feedback is given as necessary to inform future progress, sometimes by way of a video recording. Older pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. The Charanga scheme provides support for assessment.

### Resources

We keep resources for music in a central store.

### The school choir and musical events

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. Each week, the whole school take part in Prayer and Praise worship, featuring body and vocal warm ups, singing collectively, group work singing and full class performances. There is always opportunity for soloist and small group repertoire, show casing singing strengths.

For celebrations such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Churches Together, we have a school choir, which we encourage all children from Year 3-6 to join. The choir meet at lunchtimes.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for budding musicians to perform as part of assemblies, concerts and school performances. This recognises their achievements and celebrates their success.

### Monitoring

Each year time is set aside to review standards and monitor curriculum provision and ensure training and resources are up to date. The subject leader will use a range of monitoring tools, including lesson observations, pupil voice, work scrutiny, and performance evaluations, to regularly review the effectiveness of music provision. The school have a 10-year curriculum development plan, which is a working progress document, detailing our aims for the next years. We liaise closely with Lancashire Music Hub, who support us in training, new features and different webinars to support music in school and beyond. Charanga also offer lots of support and update us on their new features.

January 2026

Suzanne Bellard

