

## The teaching of Music at Britannia Community Primary School

### Intent

At Britannia School we follow the Charanga Musical School Scheme. In line with the curriculum for music and guidance from Ofsted, this Scheme moves away from the previous levels and learning objective/outcome concepts to an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning.

Ofsted have stated that within Music, “We will not always know the learning outcomes” so segregated learning objectives at the start of each lesson are not appropriate. Instead the interrelated dimensions of music weave through the units to encourage the development of musical skills as the learning progresses through listening and appraising, differing musical activities (including creating and exploring) and performing.

Throughout a child’s time at Britannia School we want them to gain confidence, the ability to perform, the skills to express an opinion through appraising a variety of musical genres, to discover the origins of musical pieces and to learn the history of the composers and their music, the opportunity to play both tuned and untuned instruments. Beyond the curriculum we want to develop a love of music, enhancing an appreciation of the wider arts. We are enabling children to channel their feelings through musical expression.

Charanga supports the use of tuned and untuned instruments to enable children to develop the interrelated dimensions of music. This is further enhanced at Britannia School by a specialist peripatetic music teacher who teaches recorders currently to Year 3 and brass instruments in Year 5. Their achievements are celebrated termly with a performance for parents.

We go on trips to expose the children to life experiences such as visiting the Bridgewater Hall to listen to the Halle orchestra, take them on theatre trips to the Lowry theatre, Oldham Coliseum and Colne Muni.

Our choir has performed with Young Voices choir at the Manchester Arena, they sang and danced at Blackburn Cathedral during the Hearts & Voices concert and we always look forward to performing at Tor Views Annual Festival.

We support the wider community – singing with Bacup churches Carol service each year, visiting Olive House to sing to the residents as well as inviting the community to watch school productions and performances.

We have links with Whitworth Academy Band with whom a number of our children play.

We celebrate our children’s achievements weekly through performing in assemblies. At our Art Gallery our own musicians performed whilst parents viewed the children’s artwork.

### Implementation

Each Unit of Work comprises the strands of musical learning which correspond with the national curriculum for music:

1. Listening and Appraising - The children will listen to a variety of musical styles from different times and traditions. Recognise instruments and features of key musical styles. Encourage confident discussion using accurate musical language.
2. Musical Activities
  1. Warm-up Games - The children will have an understanding of how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together to create music through Warm-up Games.
  2. Optional Flexible Games - Flexible Bronze, Silver and Gold Challenges are available for extension work.
  3. Singing - Understand more about preparing to sing songs/raps together in a group/ensemble, sometimes in parts and confidently
  4. Playing instruments - Use glockenspiels, recorders or band instruments. Play together with confidence and understanding in a band or ensemble.
  5. Improvisation - Know and understand that when you make up your own tune or rhythm it's called improvisation. Have the knowledge and understanding that an improvisation is not written down or notated. If written down in any way or recorded, it becomes composition.
3. Composition - Know and understand that composition is creating your own melody within given boundaries. It can be notated or recorded in some way.
4. Performing - Perform, understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated. Have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

Charanga enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills.

Musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear but are part of a learning spiral. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concept whilst revisiting established skills and concepts. Continuing the spiral to allow and develop a deeper understanding of musical skills whilst learning something new.

Weekly lessons from a specialist peripatetic music teacher, enables the children to experience opportunities they may not otherwise have. Through Lancashire Music Hub we access a specialist teacher and tuned instruments. This culminates in a termly performance for parents.

### Impact

The impact of the scheme will be monitored regularly through walk-throughs, pupil questionnaires and interviews as well as summative assessment. Performance is central to the consolidation of musical learning and therefore can be used as the basis for much of the summative assessment process. Each Charanga lesson ends with a performance, by video recording week 1 and week 6's performance the progress can be seen.