

Music

Intent

At All Saints we are committed to delivering a rich and inspiring music curriculum that enables every child to develop creativity, confidence, a sense of belonging, and a genuine love of music. From the earliest stages of learning, children are immersed in musical experiences that foster curiosity, exploration, and self-expression, in line with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Through music, children gain a deeper understanding of the world around them, learning to appreciate its diversity and the important role music plays in communities locally, nationally, and globally. Beginning in EYFS, children explore sounds, rhythms, and movement through play-based and sensory experiences, forming the foundations for more structured musical learning as they progress through the school.

Our Music Curriculum Aims to Develop Children Who:

- build confidence in performing, both individually and as part of a group, beginning with singing rhymes and songs in EYFS
- listen with enjoyment and develop an appreciation for a wide range of musical genres, composers, traditions, and cultural influences, starting with attentive listening and sound discrimination in the early years
- understand how music is created through key elements such as pitch, dynamics, texture, tempo, timbre, and structure, first explored through play, movement, and experimentation in EYFS
- use musical language effectively and apply it in their own compositions and improvisations, building from early descriptive language about sounds and music
- recognise the power of music as a means of expressing and influencing emotions, initially through physical responses and imaginative play
- develop an understanding of musical notation and apply this knowledge when playing a variety of instruments as they move through the school

This approach ensures that all children, from Nursery to Year 4, experience the joy of music while developing skills that support their creative and personal growth.

Implementation

In line with the National Curriculum, all children have the opportunity to sing, listen, perform, compose and evaluate through a range of musical experiences. This progression begins in EYFS, where music is embedded within continuous provision and daily routines, and develops into more structured learning as children move through Key Stage 1 and beyond.

Our Music curriculum is delivered in many ways:

1. Through weekly music lessons (with EYFS incorporating shorter, play-based adult-led sessions alongside continuous provision)
2. Through our creative curriculum to allow for the application of skills, including role play and expressive arts in the early years
3. Through singing worships, various performances and school productions throughout the year, with EYFS children participating in age-appropriate performances
4. Through enrichment days

In EYFS and beyond, children sing regularly, listen to a wide range of music, and explore sounds using their voices, bodies, and instruments. Younger children begin by experimenting with untuned percussion, movement, and rhythm, while older pupils progress to playing tuned instruments with increasing control and accuracy.

Across the school, children evaluate their own and others' compositions and performances. In EYFS, this may be through simple discussions, reactions, and preferences, which gradually develop into more detailed use of musical vocabulary as pupils progress. This ensures a clear progression in both musical understanding and language.

Music topics often link with our creative curriculum themes, enabling children to build upon prior learning. In EYFS, this may be through storytelling, imaginative play, and exploration of sound, while in later years children make more explicit connections to musical traditions, genres, and structures.

We are passionate about singing and performance. Children take part in a variety of performances throughout the year from Nursery through to Year 4. As a church school, singing is also an integral part of our collective worship and church services, with even our youngest children developing confidence in joining in with familiar songs and actions.

From KS1, children also have the opportunity to receive individual or small group instrumental lessons through Entrust Music Service.

Impact

Our music curriculum ensures that all children develop a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music, with strong foundations established in the early years.

Children begin by exploring sounds with curiosity and enjoyment in EYFS, showing increasing confidence in singing familiar songs, responding physically to music, and engaging in shared musical experiences. These early experiences support the development of listening skills, attention, coordination, and emotional expression.

As pupils move through the school, they build on these foundations and leave All Saints with growing confidence in their ability to perform, both independently and as part of a group, demonstrating resilience, collaboration, and pride in their achievements.

Through exposure to a wide range of musical styles, genres, and cultural traditions, children develop an informed understanding of music from different times and places. They are able to listen critically, express opinions using appropriate musical vocabulary, and show respect for the diverse musical heritage found within their community and beyond.

Pupils gain a secure understanding of the key elements of music and apply this knowledge when composing and improvising. They are increasingly able to make thoughtful musical choices, demonstrating creativity and originality in their work. Their understanding of musical notation enables them to play a variety of instruments with developing accuracy and expression.