

At St. Mary's Primary School, every child is encouraged to immerse themselves in music. It is a subject we are very passionate about and feel it enriches our children's lives, learning experience and the fullness of our worship.

We believe children should learn music for:

i) Enjoyment - Music is a lifelong experience

- Music is a skill for adult life

- Love of music should be developed to enhance lives

ii) Creativity - To create and share musical ideas

- To use music as a creative stimulus

- To adapt the ideas of others

iii) Culture - Music provides a way of understanding global cultures

- Provides an insight into historical cultures

- Music helps children develop their own tastes and enriches cultural knowledge and awareness

iv) Sociability - Singing together creates bonds between children

- Working in groups develops team work and skills such as negotiation and discussion

- v) Cross -Curricular - Music develops a sense of rhythm and co-ordination
 - Helps language development and strengthens speaking and listening skills
 - Playing an instrument develops fine motor skills
 - Music helps children to develop an awareness of patterns
 - Aids in the development of concentration
 - Music greatly contributes to acts of worship
 - vi) Aesthetics - Music helps children understand their feelings
 - It helps children develop their own opinions
 - Music is a unique art focus and is a means of self-expression
- Our curriculum is inclusive, accessible and enjoyable!

Pupil Voice

"It's fun and it makes me feel happy!" Lena, Y3.

"We sing a lot and I like learning drums" Gideon, Y3.

"I love music because it is fun and we learn so much from it. My favourite part is playing the instruments." Anika, Y4.

"It's very interesting and it makes me feel happy." Lewis, Y4.

"I didn't know facts could be made so fun by being put into a song." Michael, Y5 during 'Black History Month'

"It makes me feel like I'm in a different world. Music at St. Mary's makes me feel safe." Ethan, Y6.

"I can share my musicality with children, teachers and other families." Isabel, Y6.

Lessons

The pupils at St. Mary's have access to a wide range of musical instruments, which they use to explore pulse, rhythm, melody, dynamics and composition. Singing is at the core of our practice and we use this to enhance performance, technique, repertoire and a variety of musical concepts.

Weekly music lessons are delivered to each class in the school from Nursery-Y6. These are led by our music specialist Ms. Wyld. A full description of our music curriculum can be found in the Music section of the website.

In addition to weekly class lessons, children are encouraged to participate in one of the following ensembles:

Guitar

Flute

Brass

Violin

Clarinet

Lessons are delivered by our visiting tutors and children perform at the end of each term to show their loved ones and peers how hard they have been working!

Recorder

Years 3 and 4 children will be given the opportunity to learn the recorder as a group. This will help them to read musical notation, a great skill which can be transferred to playing other instruments, and will also encourage them to work confidently as a team through performing together in an ensemble.

Samba

When children reach Y5, they will learn Brazilian Samba drumming, which is delivered by The Carnival Project. This encompasses many of the essential skills outlined in the new curriculum as well as teaching the children about teamwork and the idea of 'one band, one sound.'

Choir

In addition to our weekly KS1 and KS2 hymn practices, St. Mary's children are encouraged to join the school choir from Year 4. Weekly rehearsals, regular concerts and community performances build children's confidence and strengthen links with our school community.

Community

Children from our choir perform regularly within the school community at places such as Sir Thomas Philpot Almshouses. In the past we have also been involved in Young Voices at the O2 Arena, a Sing Up day with cluster school, Gordon Primary, Eltham Lights Up, and the Greenwich and Bexley Carolthon. We are proud to be active members within the local community.