



## Music at Catshill First School and Nursery



“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity” (National Curriculum 2014)

### Aims

At Catshill First School and Nursery we strive to provide all children with a rich learning experience in music; not only because of the skills and knowledge they gain but also due to the enjoyment that every child can gain from the subject. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world we live in. By learning about musical traditions from around the world and from a variety of cultures the children are developing their knowledge of the world, the diversity within cultures and a respect for others.

### What you will see

We provide opportunities for all children to listen, create, play, perform and enjoy music, as well as appreciate a wide variety of musical forms thereby developing their understanding and enjoyment of the subject. The children have the opportunity to develop their social skills by sharing experiences with others and cooperating with them when creating and performing music. Across the school all children, from Nursery to Y4, have at least 2 opportunities a week to practise music skills linked to rhythm and beat by joining in with ‘Brain Break’ type warm ups and activities.

In Nursery and Reception, the Early Years Framework is used as a basis for their planning, but they also cater for the needs and interests of the children. Therefore, ‘music’ may look different in the classes from one term to the next. The ‘Expressive Arts and Design’ (EAD) area of learning incorporates a large musical element. In addition to the EAD area of learning, musical elements are also taught through aspects of all the other areas within the Early Years Curriculum such as Literacy (rhythm) and Maths (pattern). In Reception they have the opportunity to have a weekly music session taught by the Catshill Middle School (CMS) Music Teacher. Through these sessions the children work on skills linked to listening, performing and using instruments following the EYFS Framework. Children in both classes are regularly taught songs which support topic learning, as well as Maths and Literacy Skills on a daily basis. In the classes the children have access through the continuous and enhanced provision to instruments, allowing them to explore sound, beat and rhythm and perform either individually or with their friends within their ‘Play and Learn’ times.

### Key Stage 1 and 2

The National Curriculum (2014) and Model Music Curriculum (2021) for Key Stages 1 and 2 underpin the music planning and provide the class teachers with the necessary objectives. In our school we use the ‘Charanga’ Music scheme for our weekly lessons. Both Key Stages 1 and 2 follow the English Model Music Curriculum Scheme, as it builds a deeper understanding of musicality.

All children at Catshill First School and Nursery are given the opportunity to be part of the Key Stage performances and assemblies. In the Early Years and Key Stage 1 the performances are linked to Christmas and often have a ‘Nativity’ theme. In Key Stage 2 there is a Spring term performance of a musical play. These opportunities are a fantastic chance for the children to learn and perform songs in front of a larger audience. For children who wish to learn a specific instrument there is the opportunity to have a peripatetic teacher in school for a weekly session to learn and practise this instrument. Furthermore in Key Stage 2 there are additional opportunities for music with a specialist teacher; in Year 3 the children are given the opportunity, for 1.5 terms to learn the ukulele and some Year 4 children have access to a ‘play on’ ukulele session. We are also fortunate to have a Music Specialist from Catshill Middle School who supports different classes throughout the year.

### Ensuring this is put into practice

Within the Early Years assessment of music is based on observation during ‘Play and Learn’ times. As with the Early Years, much of the assessment of music in Key Stages 1 and 2 is based on observation. Audio recordings and photographs provide an opportunity for assessment and written recordings can sometimes be a guide. The music skills taught during Key Stages 1 and 2 are recorded in the Music Progression Digital Book for each year group and passed up at the end of the academic year, enabling the Subject Leader to monitor the subject efficiently. The biggest measure of impact is, however, our children’s attitudes to music and the confidence with which they engage with a wide range of musical activities from listening and composing to performing and playing. Music is an integral part of life, and has been shown to have many benefits across the curriculum. By introducing children to a quality music curriculum at Catshill First School and Nursery we are providing them with skills they will use and develop throughout their lives.

*Jennifer Banks, September 2024*