



STMARY'S
MIDDLEWICH

Curriculum Aims

At St. Mary's, we are a proud Catholic school, with Christ at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is a gift from God, created in his own image and likeness. Our Mission Statement affirms that our aim is that every child reaches their full potential.

Pupils' learning and development is at the centre of our school's curriculum; it is broad, balanced and challenging, ensuring pupils develop the skills necessary to succeed in life after primary school. Our welcoming and nurturing environment, based on the Gospel Values, also allows every individual to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth.

We recognise that our children are the leaders of tomorrow and that we must prepare them to play an active and responsible role in society.

INTENT

Why do we teach what we teach?

We believe that Music provides opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral, social, creative and cultural development of all children. Under the guidance of the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, we aim to develop within children a knowledge and enjoyment of music, which will remain with them throughout life.

At St Mary's the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres.

We strive to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.



IMPLEMENTATION

How do we teach what we teach?

At St Mary's we have fun with music. It enriches lessons, brings life to gatherings, and brings joy throughout the school day. We ensure that the National Curriculum requirements are met as musical skills are taught using the structured Charanga programme. It follows a framework that is useful for both music specialists and non-specialists, and its progressive musical activities challenge students of all ages. With access to a musical freestyle library of songs and other resources for a broad range of school topics, it also helps us to embed music into the curriculum. Where possible, we also deliver music through our creative curriculum. We embrace new opportunities to keep our musical provision current with cross-curricular links. For example, Year 6 children created art work, inspired by the BBC led Ten Pieces initiative. At St Mary's we feel that it is important that every child has the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. When children reach year 5, they have one year of whole class ensemble tuition through Wider Opportunities.

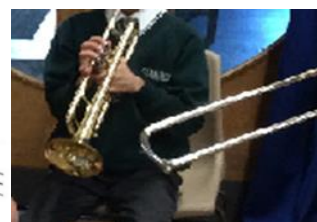
This is delivered through the Love Music Trust which acts as the Music Education Hub for Cheshire East.

Through Wider Opportunities the following National Curriculum elements can be attained:

- Notation - pupils are introduced to appropriate notation once their aural understanding of a piece of music is established.
- History of Music - pupils learn about the context of chosen repertoire, as well as the historical development and context of the instrument they are learning to play.
- Traditions - practical lessons are supported by appropriate listening activities.
- Improvisation and composition - simple blues activities give both a historical and practical context, whilst understanding of notation can be built upon through more formalised composition activities.

Specialist tutors teach pupils an instrument every week for one year, and children have use of an instrument which enables home practice between lessons. Through specially written skills-based units of work, this programme has introduced many children at St Mary's to the 'magic and discipline of making music'.

In addition, children have the opportunity to have private or small group tuition; many children have left St. Mary's proficient in playing an instrument and having attained their first grade.



INCLUSION

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school, which supports and encourages all children to achieve. We are committed to high quality teaching and learning opportunities with Quality First Teaching at the core of curriculum planning. Pupils with special education needs (including gifted and talented children) receive support where appropriate, including differentiated work and small group support from TA's. Supporting teachers working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The wider opportunities programme is totally inclusive, offering opportunity for all, where 'The aim is for every child to benefit, regardless of family income or circumstances'. Its SEND provision consists of a scheme of ready-made lessons called 'Anyone Can Play'. TA support is also available during Wider Opportunities lessons. For private tuition, financial help is available for children in families which are in receipt of Pupil Premium.



IMPACT

How do we measure what we teach?

We have seen many examples in which children at St Mary's have discovered their enjoyment of music which has led to a significant improvement in wellbeing.

Music at St Mary's is more than an academic lesson. We appreciate the power of music to transform lives, to bring people together, to give a sense of purpose and belonging, and to enrich teaching and learning. It is a channel for self-expression, for sharing, and for creativity. It brings us together as a school in moments of celebration and helps us to be collectively calm in moments of peace and prayer.

The presence and importance of music at St Mary's can be felt strongly at what has become a very special time of our school day - at the start of our afternoon when singing can be heard coming from every classroom simultaneously. It really is special to hear.

We understand the undeniably positive impact singing can have on emotional, physical and mental wellbeing. This is the reason why music is such an important part of life at St Mary's.

Children at St Mary's are always encouraged to share their music through performances at assemblies, shows and recitals. We also embrace opportunities to perform in the wider community, which has included local performances at the Folk and Boat Festival, charitable events, Secondary school, residential homes, and ecumenical carol services with local churches. At Christmastime the children have even taken their music to local shops, to raise money for local charities.

Music at St Mary's stretches beyond the curriculum. It is not only the children who love music and perform; our staff band has also enjoyed performing for parents and children. This has helped to create the 'give it a go' culture at St Mary's, which has encouraged children to step out of their comfort zones and 'find their singing voices'!