

## **Music at Killigrew Primary and Nursery School**

### **Intent**

At Killigrew, we use the Charanga scheme of work as a basis for our music teaching. We chose this scheme because it provides teachers with week-by-week lessons for each year group in the school and is ideal for both specialist and non-specialist teachers. We also liked the fact that the programme has a strong interactive and visual element, meaning that every part of the lesson engages pupils regardless of their starting point in music.

The learning within this scheme is based on three key themes: Listening and Appraising; Creating and Exploring and Singing and Performing and these themes perfectly complement the curriculum taught by our specialist music teacher from the Dragon of the North Creative Arts company.

Dragon of the North's mission is to teach our pupils the fundamental elements of music. Their teaching, which is additional to the music taught by our teachers, emphasises the importance of shared musicianship and brings the year groups and key stages together to perform as a larger group.

Through an engaging curriculum, with systematic progression, our music curriculum covers motor skills and coordination, exploring rhythm through movement, singing, instrumental skills, choir and band musicianship, improvisation and composition.

It can be broadly grouped into seven themes as detailed in the music progression map.

- 1. Singing and scales**
- 2. Patterns and melodies**
- 3. Structure, pattern and written notation**
- 4. Organising and evaluating a musical performance**
- 5. Rhythm**
- 6. Justice and fairness**
- 7. Improvisation**

Within these themes, our children make excellent progress as they move through the school.



*Key Stage 1 funky drumming*

In addition to this class teaching, our specialist music teacher also teaches and rehearses with a school band and runs a 'Funky Drumming' after school club. For the school band, our aim is that all children have the opportunity to play an instrument in the band and experience the excitement of playing in front of an audience.

In addition to this music teaching, we also welcome a wide range of peripatetic music teachers into school. We believe that learning to play an instrument is not only fun, but also instils a sense of discipline: in order to master the instrument, children must be responsible, resilient and reflective.

These qualities are part of our fundamental Killigrew values and many of our pupils choose to specialise in a particular instrument, or have singing lessons.



*Piano lessons*

We also want our pupils to engage in music as part of the wider community so that they share the experience with other children and perform in a group in front of an even larger audience.

With this in mind, we take part in many events that include a fabulous performance at the Alban Arena with other local primary schools, the St Albans Cathedral carol service and M-Fest, which is a local secondary school event, celebrating primary school choirs.

### **Implementation**

We have a large music room, stocked with a wide range of instruments. Teachers teach music weekly using the Charanga scheme and twice a year each class has the opportunity to spend a half term working with our specialist music teacher.

Once a week, music assemblies bring staff and children together to enjoy singing as a group, accompanied by the school band. For our other assemblies, the music subject leader provides a timetable of classical music to play at the start and at the end of every assembly.

We engage parents in our music curriculum through a termly concert that provides pupils with the opportunity to share their learning in music.

For peripatetic music, we carefully timetable lessons within the school day so that children have the opportunity to learn how to play a large selection of instruments including the piano, recorder, guitar, saxophone, clarinet, flute and the cornet.

We hold once or twice yearly assemblies where our pupils model their peripatetic learning to their parents and other children. Through the use of pupil premium funding, we ensure that all children are provided with the opportunity to learn an instrument if they wish.



*An all singing all dancing version of the Wizard of Oz Year 6 production*

### **Impact**

Our concerts, music assemblies and level of participation in both community events and peripatetic music lessons provide the best evidence of the impact of music teaching at Killigrew.

We are also proud that many of our children have successfully applied to a local selective school on a music scholarship.

Parent and pupil feedback on the quality of music teaching and provision is always overwhelmingly positive, underpinned by lesson observation outcomes.

*Parent feedback (2020)*

*(We) really appreciate the fact that children have access to excellent music teaching and after school clubs. So important for their emotional development and enjoyment.*

*What a wonderful lot of assemblies. I love the increase in music throughout the school and feel this is hugely beneficial to all aspects of life!*

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*My child has loved playing the bass guitar so much he has asked for one for Christmas. Really great!*