

Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy

Music Policy

Spring 2017

This policy document was adopted by the staff of Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy. This policy outlines the guiding principles by which this school will implement Music in the National Curriculum (2014).

1. Our rationale for teaching Music

We, at Northwick Park believe firmly that music education has something to offer all children of all abilities and that therefore our responsibility is to provide an enjoyable, progressive and challenging music education for all children.

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high- quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self- confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

(National Curriculum, 2014)

2. Aims and objectives

Our aims are to:

- Ensure that every child receives and enjoys the music education they are entitled to.
- Promote music to both pupils and parents, as an essential aspect of life, and the curriculum.
- Develop the fundamental musical skills of performing, composing and listening and appraising, through interesting and varied activities.
- Develop an awareness and respect for music from different periods of time and other cultures.
- Develop musical self-esteem in all pupils, through positive reinforcement of achievements and abilities.
- Enable children to work collaboratively and as individuals, developing social skills and respect for one another.
- Provide opportunities for all children to learn an instrument as a class.
- Provide opportunities for individual music tuition by peripatetic teachers.
- Give all children varied performance opportunities and experiences.
- Deliver and promote music as enjoyable.

3. Time allocation

All pupils receive a weekly music session through a programme of year group and class lessons. There are opportunities for children to take part in extra music provision both within school time and as extra-curricular provision.

Children who wish to receive 1-1 music lessons are able to do so in school through peripatetic music teachers provided by Essex Music Hub.

4. Teaching and learning

- Provision is made for different ages and levels of ability.
- Teaching aims to increase children's knowledge through the topic requirements of the National Curriculum 2014.
- Children are given opportunities to:
 - Take increasing responsibility for their work.
 - Work independently and in groups.
 - Be involved in tasks of varying duration.
 - Undertake teacher directed and child initiated tasks.
 - Be proactive learners.
 - Take part in tasks with an understanding of their context in the working world.

5. Programme of Activity

The Music curriculum at Northwick Park has been designed around performance activities for the children. These are just the end point. We believe that the value of the activity is in the process of preparing for real events, which the learning is based upon. We have a yearly programme of activity that ensures all children throughout their time at Northwick Park will cover all the areas of the curriculum in a creative, exciting and inspiring way.

6. Assessment, recording and reporting

Assessments are made in line with the school assessment policy by either the class teacher or the specialist music teacher, depending on who is delivering the sessions.

7. Inclusion and equal opportunities

All pupils receive quality music teaching and activities which are differentiated according to individual need. More able and gifted and talented pupils are identified and given opportunities to extend their abilities. Gender and race equality is promoted, ensuring all pupils have access to all aspects of the curriculum.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

- Music is monitored by the head teacher, music subject leader and the Arts governor.
- Having identified priorities, the music subject leader constructs an action plan which forms part of the School Development Plan. This then forms the basis for monitoring and will identify how this is to be implemented.