



Balfour Junior Academy Music Policy
Mrs A Dunn September 2018

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Document Purpose

This document reflects the values and philosophy of Balfour Junior Academy in relation to the teaching and learning of Music. It provides a framework within which all staff should work and gives guidance on planning, teaching, expectations and assessment.

Audience

This document relates to pupils in Key Stage 2 and is intended for all Teaching Staff, SLT, the Academy Governors, Parents and Inspection Teams.

This policy document, after presentation to, and agreement by, the Staff and Governing Body, is distributed to all Teaching Staff and the Academy Governors. Such distribution ensures the accessibility of the document to visiting Teachers, for example Outreach/Support Staff and to Parents.

Philosophy

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way children feel, think and act. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it can help children to understand themselves and relate to others. The teaching of Music develops children's ability to listen to and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgments about musical quality. It encourages active involvement in different forms of music-making, helping children to acquire a sense of group identity and togetherness. Music increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment.

Subject Aims

The main aim of Music education is to develop children's sensitivity to, and their understanding of Music, through an active involvement in performing and composing, listening and appraising.

Pupils are taught to play and perform, improvise and compose, listen, use and understand musical notations, appreciate and understand a wide range of music and develop an understanding of the history of music

Children at Balfour Junior Academy follow the National Curriculum for Music and work at levels appropriate to their ability. It is expected that most children will achieve the standard relevant to their age group. These subject aims are in accordance with the National Curriculum.

Curriculum Organisation at Balfour Academy

As a curriculum area, Music has a designated Curriculum Lead. The Lead receives any information or resources that arrive in the Academy, and decisions regarding the development of the Music Curriculum are made by the Lead with involvement from the Headteacher as and when necessary.

In order to achieve the aims outlined in this document, the teaching of Music at Balfour Junior Academy is organized into activities which are incorporated into the Creative Curriculum under specific topic areas. The topics are based on the Cornerstones planning scheme and vary according to each year group.

Teaching Music at Balfour Junior Academy is primarily a practical activity, using the resources available. This is supplemented by recordings and, whenever possible, live music perhaps from schools within our Academy Trust.

Ukulele lessons are offered to all Year 4 children as part of their weekly timetable. These lessons are provided as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme from the Medway Music Association.

Music Assembly

Two Music Assemblies are held each week in the Hall by the Music Lead. The assemblies are divided into Lower and Upper School. Each assembly is a relaxed but dedicated gathering, with a focused and clear objective based in quality learning of songs. Age-appropriate songs are selected for the children to learn and to sing as a whole school during celebration assemblies. Songs practiced during Music Assemblies are usually seasonal, or reflect a current or topical theme, eg: Christmas, Harvest, Start of Term, Remembrance Day and so on. The children play an important part in which songs are sung, as well as choosing their own songs from popular or theatre music towards the end of the academic year.

Clubs and Cross Trust Opportunities

There is currently a Music Club which is open to all pupils at the Academy. Links with partner schools within the Academy Trust are being strengthened in order to facilitate more opportunities for pupils, such as visits from partner schools to showcase work. Guitar lessons are offered privately after school to pupils who are interested. Balfour Junior Academy takes part in Cross Trust concerts and performances as appropriate which gives the pupils excellent opportunities to perform to a wider audience, experience working with larger groups and ensembles and to experience the joy of putting on a show.

Resources

A variety of Music resources are kept in the school. Musical instruments, books and are equipment are kept in the Music Cupboard located at the front of the building. These resources are available to all staff. The instruments and other equipment are a valuable resource and children should be shown the correct way to look after them, so that the instruments are not damaged. Any damage to an instrument should be reported to the Music Lead who will take the necessary action.

The Music Lead reviews the use of resources and their storage, in consultation with the staff and plans and oversees the purchase of resources as necessary.

Subject Monitoring

Monitoring is frequently carried out to improve the teaching and learning of Music within Balfour Junior Academy. All staff appraise the curriculum provision made for Music within the Academy, in order that pupils make the greatest possible progress.

Evaluation includes a regular review of the content of the Music Curriculum to ensure that National Curriculum requirements are being fulfilled. Pupils' progress and performance is judged, taking account of factors that might influence this, such as teaching methods and resources.

Monitoring can be carried out by a number of methods, including: the assessment of pupils' work and achievements, discussion amongst staff, visual and audio evidence, classroom observation, blinks, learning walks and pupil voice. Feedback and observations are recorded and analysed as appropriate by the Music Lead.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and non-teaching staff at Balfour Junior Academy are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances have access to the whole curriculum and the opportunity to make the greatest progress possible in all areas of the curriculum while at our Academy.

All children at Balfour Junior Academy are given the opportunity to develop skills to the very best of their ability. Wherever possible, all children participate in the whole Music Curriculum. For children who have physical disabilities, some modification might be needed to this area of the curriculum. Any modification is made in consultation with Support Staff and the SENCo. Gifted and Talented children should be challenged within the music curriculum lessons and the Music Lead works closely with the Gifted and Talented Lead in order to provide opportunities for such pupils.

Health and Safety

All children and staff are required to treat equipment with care regarding their own and others' health and safety. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times to the music cupboard and all equipment must be moved in a way which keeps pupils and staff safe. Children must be aware of the dangers of playing instruments too loudly or too close to someone's ears and are expected to behave responsibly when using the equipment.