



## **Music at St. Stephen's C.E Primary School**

At St. Stephen's we fully believe and support the philosophy of music being a unique way of communicating which inspires and motivates children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and plays a vital role in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in and so the teaching and learning of music enables us to better understand and celebrate the world we live in. The Expressive Arts offer an important vehicle for creating and formulating a child's own ideas and feelings. In music, sound can act as a medium of expression and communication. Music activities can play a significant role in other areas of the curriculum making a valuable contribution to a child's learning experience at all Key Stages. It is also important for our children to develop confidence in their personal powers of creativity related to their ability, aptitude and personal needs.

### **It is the school's aim:**

- To provide all children with the opportunity to explore an ambitious, broad and balanced, progressive range of activities within music, meeting the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To encourage children to enjoy and understand music developing an awareness and appreciation through active involvement of listening, performing and composing.
- To promote an enjoyment and sensitivity to all types of music, from different periods and cultures, in a variety of styles.
- To create opportunity for a wide range of musical experiences to take place.
- To raise self-esteem and develop self-confidence meeting the individual needs of all children.
- To know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures.
- To develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

Here at St. Stephen's, we use the Charanga Music Scheme to support the teaching of music in the classroom. Children listen to, perform and review music of different styles and from different periods and cultures. They learn to sing, create and compose music on their own and with others, as well as learning musical notation

In addition to our classroom-based music curriculum, we are currently in the process of re-establishing opportunities for instrumental tuition across school. Prior to covid pupils in both KS1 & KS2 were offered weekly tuition in a range of instruments via Tameside Music Service. KS1 were



offered tuition in ukulele and KS2 guitar tuition via the replay scheme which offered group tuition and instrument hire at a very reasonable cost.

We have recently re-introduced whole class instrumental tuition for some KS2 classes using Front Row Music. Block teaching is delivered to chosen classes (currently Y4) who are learning to play ukulele and children are given an instrument for the duration of their sessions. Each pupil is introduced to the musical elements, given opportunities to learn and perform together as well as learning to read musical scores and notation. The pupils then have opportunities to continue learning the instrument following these sessions. Children prior to covid had many opportunities to perform in our school music concerts several times each year.

Our St. Stephen's Choir now once again rehearse weekly throughout the year. I have a vision to re-establish opportunities for pupils to perform at many school/church events, within the wider community and at regional events such as Young Voices.

Overall, we are working hard to bring back the high profile of music at St. Stephen's now the situation will allow us to do so. Music is continuously growing and providing enjoyment and musical opportunity for all

**Mrs R Pickles**

**(Music Subject Lead)**