



## Music

**'Where every child can become a musician and express themselves when words fail them'**

At Blackburn the Redeemer C of E primary school, we feel that music is a hugely important part of our school life and our curriculum. Music can be a global experience that every single child can enjoy, learn and find happiness in. Being a Church of England school, music isn't just a curriculum subject to have knowledge and skills in (although that is extremely important), but a part of our everyday life that we immerse children in to benefit their wellbeing, help support their connection with God and spend time as a community together under one roof; celebrating everything we have in our lives to be thankful for. Music is found every day, everywhere in our school, and without it, we lose a huge part of our identity. We aim to bring happiness, share and nurture children's talents and give all children an outlet to express themselves. Music is imperative in the lives of some children with special educational needs, and we have musical instruments, live music and recorded music available for all children to access daily to improve their moods, education and quality of their day!

At our school we intend that children should master Music to such an extent that they can go on to have careers within music and make use of music effectively in their everyday lives. Our children will be taught Music in a way that ensures progression of skills, and follows a sequence to build on previous learning. Our children will gain experience and skills of a wide range of dimensions of music in a way that will enhance their learning opportunities; enabling them to use music in a wide variety of contexts, ensuring they make progress.

We also aim for our children to learn about other cultures and different parts of the world; experiencing first hand where different genres of music originated from, how and why music improves lives, and build up a large bank of knowledge to give children the opportunity to create and perform their own music.

We have had successes with children leaving our school after accessing our music lessons, choirs, performances and bands, who have then gone onto having recording contracts and making careers out of music. We aim to ensure that all children; whether they have a passion for music or it needs nurturing, have the chance to try new instruments each year and have opportunity at an exciting career in music if they so choose.



We follow a broad and balanced Music curriculum that builds on previous learning and provides both support and challenge for learners. We now follow the 'Kapow' music scheme which gives the opportunity to listen, perform, compose, and learn musical knowledge related to different countries, genres, and historical periods. Our curriculum based on progressive knowledge and skills, developing children's understanding of music whilst enabling practice on a range of instruments. In Year 3 and 4, the children have the opportunity to learn the African Drums, and guitar, whilst other year groups provide rhythmic instruments, keyboards, and glockenspiels. We have close links with a local secondary school, and have an experienced music teacher supporting some topics in UKS2.

At the Redeemer we also provide a half hour 'Prayer and Praise' session that brings the whole school together to learn and sing songs where the importance of key musical vocabulary, and voice control is taught. We have a choir that is available to years 4,5 and 6, who practice weekly and perform each Friday in worship, as well as numerous events throughout the year.

Within school, the children get offered Keyboard lessons privately from the beginning of Year 1, and we have a large number of children that continue these lessons; taking their formal examinations and performing successfully three times a year in front of parents to show their progress.

After each topic of music, the children are expected to present their achievements to their peers, other year groups, or in performances, where we build the confidence needed to play in front of others.

Throughout school, we know that children are immersed in a variety of genres because there is a music canon that teachers closely follow to ensure children are immersed in music from different genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Teachers are expected to follow a set system in music lessons to ensure that there is consistency across the school and so that the children know what to expect. This structure is as follows; Repeat/ recall of previous skills/ learning, listen to a piece of music from the music canon, introduce/teach new learning, model, give the children chance to practice a new skill, present a new skill, and receive feedback. All music lessons should include musical instruments to support the embedding of new learning.

Our children enjoy and value Music. Children will understand and appreciate the value of music in the context of their personal well-being, historical understanding, and genre understanding. Progress in Music is demonstrated through regularly reviewing and celebrating of children's work, via a video portfolio that is recorded by teachers in the practice, and present stage of each lesson. The Music curriculum will contribute to children's personal development in creativity, independence, judgement, and self-reflection. Teachers assess the learning of each unit by deciding whether children are working at age-related expectations, working towards, or working at greater depth.