



## Music Subject Statement

| Subject          | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music</b><br/><i>‘Without music, life would be a mistake’ – Friedrich Nietzsche</i></p>   |   |  |
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| Purpose and aims | <p>Music plays a vital role in a child’s education, particularly as it facilitates and enhances learning in other areas. It encourages creativity and allows pupils to communicate thoughts, ideas, emotions and events. Music often relies on the co-operation of the individual towards a group effort. In this way it develops pupils’ social and communicative skills and helps them develop an understanding of different communities and cultures, as well as developing creativity, self-esteem and nurturing mental health.</p> <p>Our high-quality music curriculum aims to engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to improvise and compose their own music; perform with confidence and learn an instrument.</p> <p>Through our music curriculum we aim to extend pupils’ knowledge, understanding and experience as music makers, enabling them to create and communicate their ideas to others effectively, so that they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform skilfully and confidently.</li> <li>• Use musical vocabulary to analyse music.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of different types of notation.</li> <li>• Use musical language to convey meaning.</li> <li>• Understand and appreciate different types of music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.</li> <li>• Express their opinions about music.</li> <li>• Express their feelings through music.</li> <li>• Develop their self-confidence, creativity and find fulfilment in music making.</li> </ul> |   |  |
| Core values      | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community</u></p> <p>The music curriculum contributes to children’s sense of community, by allowing opportunities for performing together in school shows, concerts and community events such as International Evening and the Christmas carols. Children are encouraged to work together and support each other’s growth and development as musicians. This</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Responsibility</u></p> <p>The music curriculum contributes to children’s personal development in independence, judgement and self-reflection. Children are expected to take responsibility for practising songs and pieces for performances and are asked to reflect on their own progress and others, thinking about how they can improve their musical skills and knowledge. They are also encouraged to work</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Growth</u></p> <p>The music curriculum encourages all children to practise their skills and understand that with regular practice over time they will see an improvement in their ability and knowledge. Children are given many occasions to express themselves and try out their ideas within a safe, supportive environment. Every child in the school is</p> |



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|  | extends into our music clubs (choir, orchestra, recorder club and rock band), where children from different age groups work together.   | in groups and take responsibility for both their own part in the group and ensuring everyone is equally included.  | given the opportunity to perform in a show 3 times whilst at Ashmount (Year 1 Nativity, Year 4 Christmas musical, Year 6 End of school show)  |
| <b>Knowledge and skill progression</b>       | At Ashmount we follow the National Curriculum for music and it is implemented using a variety of resources such as LCP; Music Express; Charanga; BBC Ten Pieces and Listening to Musical Elements. These schemes are developed by experts in the field and provide a clear progression of knowledge and skills from Nursery to Year 6. In Early years and KS1 the emphasis is on building knowledge and understanding of the elements of music such as tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, pitch rhythm and beat, listening and appraising. In KS2 these skills are then combined to create improvisations, compositions, song arrangements and to learn an instrument (violin in Year 4). Key skills and knowledge are revisited again and again with increasing complexity, allowing children to revise and build on their previous knowledge. Opportunities are provided throughout for children to perform such as during class music lessons, assemblies, show and concerts. Every child performs in a whole year group show in Year 1,4, and 6. In addition, extra-curricular music clubs enable children to practise, develop and enhance their musical skills. Currently we offer drum, piano, singing, clarinet, saxophone and violin lessons; recorder club, choir, orchestra and rock band. We also work closely with Music Education Islington and children are able to attend the Islington music hub in order to develop their instrumental skills, sing in a choir and perform regularly with other Islington schools. |  |   |
| <b>Characteristics of effective learning</b> | <p><u>Engagement</u></p> <p>Music is taught weekly by a specialist music teacher. Lessons are practical in nature and include singing, dancing, improvising, composing, listening, appraising and performing. Children are given time to rehearse and then perform to each other every week. Children also attend weekly singing assemblies and are encouraged to join a range of music clubs and to learn an instrument.</p>   | <p><u>Motivation</u></p> <p>Music lessons are designed to be engaging and fun, encouraging all children to create and perform music, regardless of their experience.</p> <p>Growth Mindset: Children are reminded to keep practising in order to improve, try out their music and ideas within a nurturing environment and learn from their mistakes. They are also asked to reflect on their own and each other's progress.</p> | <p><u>Thinking</u></p> <p>Key vocabulary for each half term unit of work is revisited at the start of each lesson. Each half term unit focuses on an area of music such as composition, song arranging, rhythm and beat, listening and appraising. These skills are revisited and sequentially built upon from Nursery through to year 6. Children are encouraged to develop their ideas through discussion, practising singing, improvising, composition and performance in groups. They are asked to reflect on their own progress and give feedback to each other.</p> |



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| <p><b>Communication and vocabulary</b></p>   | <p>During music lessons, children are asked to communicate their ideas through listening to and appraising music, singing, improvising, composition and dancing. They are taught key vocabulary which is revised each lesson and children are asked to use this key vocabulary when giving feedback to each other and when describing a piece of music.</p>   |
| <p><b>Cultural capital</b><br/>“the essential knowledge pupils need to become educated citizens”<br/><br/>“introducing them to the best that’s been thought and said”<br/><br/>“engendering an appreciation of human creativity and achievement”</p> | <p>Through our music scheme, we ensure that essential knowledge is taught in order for children to become educated citizens. They are encouraged to express their own ideas and ask thought provoking questions about the music they listen to and the music they create themselves, such as learning about the origins of the blues and how song lyrics reflect the time, context and culture in which they were written.</p> <p>Children listen to music from a wide range of diverse cultures, genres and time periods on a regular basis during class assemblies, and singing assemblies. BBC Ten Pieces is included in the curriculum giving an in depth knowledge of the composer, background information and context of the music. Children are then given opportunities to respond to the music through discussion, writing poems, painting, dance, improvising and composing.</p> <p>Children are also given opportunities to work with professional musicians and attend concerts at one of the many concert venues in London has to offer.</p> |
| <p><b>Learning experiences</b></p>   | <p>Music lessons are timetabled on a weekly basis and children also participate in a weekly music assembly. Children also take part in regular music workshops and attend concerts at London concert venues. Weekly music clubs and music lessons are also offered. Currently these include choir, recorders, rock band, orchestra, violin lessons, drum lessons, saxophone and clarinet lessons, piano lessons and singing lessons. All children take part in 3 shows whilst at Ashmount (Year 1 Nativity, Year 4 Christmas musical and year 6 leavers show).</p>  |
| <p><b>High quality resources</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCP, Listening to Musical Elements, Music Express schemes</li> <li>• Charanga and Singup websites</li> <li>• BBC Ten pieces</li> </ul> <p>All of these resources are incorporated into are Ashmount Scheme of Work and are used on a regular basis to teach each unit of work.</p>   |