

Music Curriculum Statement

2024 - 2025



Golden Thread

At Alverton, we want all children to experience a wide range of musical genres, performers, styles and cultures. We want them to develop an understanding of the building blocks of music and provide as many opportunities for them to perform across their school life through singing, drama and playing instruments. Ultimately, we want to foster a lifelong love of music and possibly start the journey for future musicians and performers.

Intent

At Alverton we are passionate about singing, music and drama. Music threads its way throughout the whole school life of all children, in and out of the classroom, throughout the day and through discrete music lessons. Our aim is to expose children to a wide range of performers, musical styles and cultures, provide an understanding of how music is created, create real opportunities for musical performance and instil in children the confidence to develop their own taste.

Implementation

We place great importance on giving children a wide range of musical and dramatic experiences throughout their whole time at Alverton. Each year, all pupils take part in assemblies, Christmas performances and a number of community events. We take part in Cornish Music Hub events such as Songfest, performances at St John's Hall, theatre and dance workshops at the Minack Theatre as well as singing out in the community each Christmas. Alverton is known for its annual musical production which is extremely professional and plays to packed houses.

Singing is very highly valued at Alverton. We have a weekly singing assembly for each phase accompanied by the piano, learning traditional hymns alongside a wide range of modern songs which link to the New Model Music Curriculum suggestions. We run a Key Stage 2 choir which performs in and out of school and we also have a lunchtime songwriting club. Many classes play a different genre or artist in the room as children enter school or during lunchtime. Our Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful celebration of singing and music with a staff choir performing each year.

We have had a dedicated Music room built which is located on the KS1 playground and this is used as a space for individual and small group instrument lessons, peripatetic instrument lessons, storage for some of our instruments and a lunchtime space for clubs.

In addition to our love of singing, every class receives dedicated music lessons from their teacher or a skilled practitioner which develops listening skills, composition, performance, understanding of simple music notation and appreciation of a range of music genres. We use the online Music Express Skill Builder units across the whole school to focus on pupils understanding of Beat, Pitch and Rhythm. Our music rolling programme uses both Music Express and Charanga schemes of work to provide a path of progression through the key stages, with units that complement our teaching in other curriculum areas and cover age expected objectives. Every child has access to an iPad and Garage Band is used regularly in Key Stage 2 to develop composition skills alongside access to a wide range of percussion instruments.

A number of peripatetic teachers provide paid tuition in guitar, violin, woodwind and drums and we provide lessons for other pupils, many of whom would not have access to lessons, in 1:1 and small group instrumental lessons from our music specialist in school. We have lunchtime clubs and take part in the Cornish Music Hub Y3/4 whole class instrument lessons.

Our annual musical production gives pupils the opportunity to learn dances from a skilled choreographer and ex-performer as well as having singing tuition (often individually) from an expert singing teacher. The whole experience enmeshes children in a world of music, song, dance and performance and is unmissable for children in UKS2.

We build instrumental performance opportunities throughout the year for any child who wants to take part and work with peripatetic teachers to help pupils learn pieces that will be used in school. Bands are formed for events, for example Samba bands for Mazey or a string quartet to provide backing for a Beatles song. This fluid approach gives pupils with a wide scope of abilities the chance to perform and builds their confidence and motivation to learn an instrument. This access for all approach helps many children who need pastoral support to build their sense of self-esteem and confidence.

In the EYFS, children have access to percussion instruments in the learning environment. They are taught to follow a steady beat, create their own musical patterns and explore different sounds. Children are encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds that instruments make and to incorporate them into storytelling recitals. Children in the EYFS sing daily through transition songs, nursery rhymes and simple songs that are incorporated into their topic work.

Alverton School loves music. We invite bands to perform at our school fair, have teachers who wander through the school singing and play music whenever possible. However, we always aim to make it even better.

Supporting Pupils with SEND in Music

At Alverton, teaching and learning is structured to support all pupils, including those with SEND, to progressively build on identified core knowledge to know, do and remember more. To achieve this, we adapt our curriculum in every subject to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND according to their individual needs. Some examples of subject specific adaptations in Music can be found on our Supporting Pupils with SEND in Music document on the Music page of our website.

Impact

We have achieved the Cornwall Gold Singing School Award for commitment to whole school vocal development and the Artsmark Silver Award.

Over the last three years, there has been a marked increase in the number of children learning an instrument with a peripatetic teacher or within school. Currently there are 51 children attending peripatetic music lessons. We now have performing groups of violins, ukuleles, keyboards and guitars who support whole school songs and choir performances.

Each year, unto 50 children from Years 5 and 6 and a further 50 from Years 3 and 4 take part in our annual musical production which is of an exceptionally high standard. Please see http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/musical_productions_at_alverton_school/210031 for further details about these.

All school staff are involved in choosing the range of music from varied artists, composers and cultures which is played daily and which ensures that children are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of music which they might otherwise not encounter. Staff have the confidence to teach music using Music Express and understand key music terminology after CPD sessions.