



Hartwell Primary School

Music Policy

Hartwell Primary is a Voluntary Controlled academy and, recognising its historic foundation, works to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. This includes the active promotion of Christian and British values and the respecting of those of other faiths or none.

'Believe, Aspire, Grow'

Review date: Autumn 2025

Introduction

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and can play an important role in helping children to feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music. We believe that Music is a channel for building children's self-esteem, self-discipline and the enhancement of life skills.

Aims

The aims of music teaching at Hartwell Primary are to:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and use their voices
- have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument
- use technology appropriately
- create and compose music on their own and with others
- explore how music is created and organised, including the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture.

Teaching and Learning Style

We aim to make music an enjoyable learning experience and encourage children to participate in a variety of musical activities. We provide opportunities for children to develop their singing voices and to play and handle classroom instruments effectively. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform. We also teach the features of musical notation in order to develop an understanding of more complex musical structures. A music specialist, who teaches the children in Year 5 and 6, develops these skills further in UKS2.

Music Planning and Progression

We use Sing Up for our curriculum planning from Class R through to Year 6. Sing Up includes one 6-week unit of work per half term, or two 3-week units. The units incorporate singing, rhythm, reading notations, appraising, playing, writing music and performing.

This feature ensures musical progression, but also recognises variations in pupils' musical experience and understanding.

The planned progression built into this scheme means that pupils are increasingly challenged as they move through our school. The planning is geared to three aspects of progress:

- increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
- increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities
- increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music making.

Notations are used progressively throughout the scheme. For example, in KS1 pictures and graphics are often used to represent sounds. As the children move into KS2, they begin to work with rhythm and staff notation.

During performance lessons, the class ensemble is extended using additional scores for children learning to play non-classroom instruments. This extends our more able musicians and enhances the overall performance.

Year 4

In addition to classroom teaching, Year 4 take part in the NMPAT First Access Project. After this project, pupils are given the opportunity to continue learning their instrument through small group lessons taught by an NMPAT specialist. In 2025, the children will be learning Ukulele.

Assessment and Recording

We assess children's knowledge and understanding by questioning, listening and observing performances in class. This is an on-going process. Additional evidence is gathered during school performances or other relevant events. Recorded performances (audio or video) also support teacher judgements. At the end of a unit of work, teachers make a summative judgement in relation to the National Curriculum level of attainment. This is recorded termly using our school symphony grids.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities to enhance the children's musical development. These include:

- Senior (KS2) choir
- Orchestra

We facilitate a range of performance opportunities throughout the year for these groups to perform to a live audience. These include the Music Recital, Young Voices, Year 4 Ukulele Performances and performing in assemblies.