

## **St Nicholas School Music policy 2013 - 14**

At St Nicholas School we believe

Music is a unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. Music forms part of an individual's identity and positive interaction with music can develop pupils' competence as learners and increase their self-esteem. Music brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, music helps pupils understand themselves, relate to others and develop their cultural understanding, forging important links between home, school and the wider world. (The National curriculum for England)

### **The aims of music at St Nicholas school are to**

- Evoke a creative response to music through experimentation e.g. singing, composition and movement.
- Provide activities that develop musical concepts and skills sequentially.
- Develop awareness of different cultures and traditions through their music.
- Broaden understanding of a wide variety of styles of music.
- Encourage the enjoyment of music and provide the opportunities to express ideas and feeling through music.
- Offer children the opportunity to experience personal satisfaction through making music together and to develop the skills necessary to achieve the highest possible standards in this activity.
- Develop social and communication skills and foster curriculum links through songs and musical games.

### **Curriculum delivery and activities**

At St Nicholas School music is taught as a discreet subject by the music co-ordinator. Each class has a 45 minute music session every week. Music is used to support other curriculum areas as part of class teaching. This year 2013-2014 Year four is taught music by a TA supported by an HLTA

### **Foundation stage**

Pupils have the opportunity to develop basic music skills, turn taking and listening. Sessions focus on exploring and recognising how sounds can be produced and changed, singing songs from memory, creating rhythmic patterns and moving to music. Pupils are encouraged to sing a variety of songs and use a selection of musical instruments. The emphasis is on action songs and musical games.

### **Key stage one**

Pupils in Key stage one follow on from the foundation stage with a strong focus on singing, and the development of basic music skills, rhythm, pitch tempo and dynamics. Pupils have the opportunity to play mainly untuned percussion and are introduced to tuned percussion. Pupils are encouraged to develop their listening skills.

### **Key stage two**

Pupils in Key stage two follow on from key stage one in the further development of musical skills. Further progression is encouraged with the use of tuned percussion, the introduction of singing in parts and the introduction of basic music notation. Pupils are also encouraged to develop critical skills. Key stage two pupils are given the opportunity to learn an instrument as part of their scheme of work.

Pupils in all Key Stages are encouraged to respond to music through movement and through listening and appreciating different music styles.

### **Planning and assessment**

Planning for the Foundation stage and for some lower ability Key stage one pupils is in relation to the EYFS framework.

Key stage one and two follow schemes of work linked to the National Curriculum and the Croydon 'Mini music makers' scheme

Year groups are planned and taught separately although some activities are repeated to remind children of skills already learned. There is a one year programme of schemes of work to provide ease of planning.

Planning is ongoing and is in relation to pupil's ability and attainment. Pupils are assessed against the P levels, the National curriculum levels and the EYFS. A short music report is written for all pupils and is part of the annual report to parents. Pupils are videoed and photographed in music through the year.

### **Resources**

St Nicholas school has a well stocked music room. There is a wide variety of traditional untuned percussion and a selection of percussion from around the world.

We have a set of Djemebe drums shared with other school in our cluster. We have recorders and a set of ukuleles which are used in Key stage 2. We have a varied selection of CDs which are borrowed by class teachers and a wide selection of song books.

### **Further opportunities**

Pupils sing as a whole school in singing assembly every other week.

St Nicholas school offers choir for years four, five and six and the opportunity to play the recorder in years five and the ukulele in year six. These activities are offered during lunchtime and are open to all pupils in these year groups.

Every two years the choir takes part in the Croydon Schools Music Festival. This is very successful and a valuable experience for those who take part. The Choir also has a link with a local nursing home.

Some pupils are offered the chance to work with our piano player to further their musical skills, for example pupils with a gift for singing. Some pupils are offered the chance to take part in musical interaction sessions.

In 2011 links were tentatively made with several local secondary schools. One of these Riddlesdown came into school with one of their choirs and the music teacher is keen to forge more links with St Nicholas school.

### **Visiting artists**

We also have a variety of artists coming in to school to work with pupils. Most notably Margaret Archibald, from the London Mozart Players (funded by her organisation Everyone Matters) who regularly runs workshops with another colleague. These tend to be working with younger pupils and have had a sensory theme, but in 2013 we worked with Margaret and a choreographer to develop the children's responses to music through movement.

During 2010 and 2011 Year six pupils took part in the Croydon wide sound start scheme working with a percussion teacher.

In 2011 we had 'We sing u sing' a gospel organisation to run school wide workshops and an assembly.

In 2013 we had a visit from Duncan Chapman, a composer who worked with older pupils and the music coordinator to develop music technology and composition skills in school.