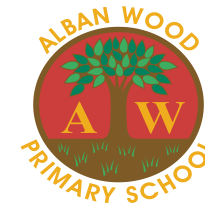


Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body bi-annually.
This policy was last reviewed in autumn 2014 and agreed by the Governing Body.
It is due for review in autumn 2018.

Signature(Head Teacher) Date

Signature(Chair of Governors) Date



Alban Wood Primary School – Music Policy

Rationale

At Alban Wood Primary School we aim to provide a teaching environment conducive for learning for all pupils. Each pupil is valued, respected and challenged regardless of their ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability.

High expectations are set so that learning objectives and activities are challenging, but extra support is given to any pupil who needs it to enable them access to Music. Teaching styles are varied to encourage maximum participation by all pupils.

Aims and Objectives

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

The aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is composed and written down;
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing, listening to and appreciating music.

Teaching and learning style

Music is taught throughout the school by teachers. Weekly music assemblies take place in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 using resources from SingUp. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We believe singing forms the foundations on which all musical learning is built. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. Children learn how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them graphic and standard musical notation and how to compose and improvise.

Additional Music Teaching

A choir is set up from Key Stage 2 children and rehearses regularly after school. Year 3 children are taught the recorder for a year and then encouraged to develop their instrumental playing through learning a new instrument. Children in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 are offered the opportunity to study a musical instrument with a specialist teacher. Specialist music teaching is organised by the Local Education Authority's Music Service. Parents who want their children to participate in the scheme must purchase or hire the instrument and pay the additional music lesson fees on a termly basis. Children who are entitled to free school meals can apply to have remission of music fees and a loan instrument provided by Herts Music Service. These lessons are normally taught in small groups who have chosen to learn the piano or guitar. Lessons take place during the school day and they are timetabled in such a way as to ensure that curriculum entitlement is maintained as much as possible.

Music Curriculum Planning

Our school has developed our own music curriculum, linking music as much as possible to the class termly topics. Skills progression has been identified and links are frequently made to two music schemes 'The Voices Foundation' and 'Music Express.' All units will start with singing, as this forms a practical basis for children to experience and see how music is structured and organised. This planned progression, year-on-year, means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

Equal Opportunities

At our school we teach music to all children, whatever their ability. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We set suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

Musicians from other countries and other professional musicians are invited into school to work with the children during specific 'Music events'. The children also use a range of percussion instruments from other countries and listen to music from a variety of cultures. Each week in assembly a new country is given and children learn about the music from that country as well as the origin of some instruments.

Assessment and Recording

Assessment in music takes place by making informal and on occasions formal judgements of children as they work. This is notated on weekly plans, which then helps to inform future planning. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher marks the work and comments as necessary. Any work completed during music lessons has a purple learning objective and is stuck into the childrens' Creative Arts books so that it is easily identifiable and can be used as evidence for assessments. At the end of each unit, formal assessments are made and where possible video or audio recordings made. At the end of the year, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to our music assessment system to decide whether pupils are working towards, working at or working above the expected standard.

Resources

There are sufficient resources to cover all of the music teaching units across the school. Resources are stored in the creative arts room. Foundation stage classes have their own selection of instruments in their classroom to fit their curriculum requirements. The library contains a good supply of topic books to support children's individual research. We are currently using 2Simple Music Toolkit as well as other web based software across the school to perform, compose and improvise using computing and are looking to develop this area further.