



## **Music Curriculum Rationale**

### **Intent**

*'A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.'* Department of Education, National Curriculum

At Oreston Community Academy, children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We believe that music should be an enjoyable, participatory activity that supports the development of social, as well as musical, skills. Our aim is to provide a music curriculum where pupils are given the opportunity to develop their own musical skills, tastes and aspirations and all pupils leaving our school should have experienced music in such a way that they can pursue it in an active, informed and positive manner. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

### **Implementation**

The music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the joining of one of our musical clubs. The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed.

In the classroom, children learn how to play tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments, as well as singing and body percussion. They also have an opportunity to develop an understanding of pulse, rhythm and notation. In Years 3 and 4, children receive whole class tuition to learn to play the saxophone, which is provided by highly skilled tutors from the Plymouth Music Service.

Throughout all year groups, children also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Aural and appraising skills are also developed through listening attentively to a wide range of live and recorded music. Pupils are encouraged to respond to music through discussion, movement or other appropriate means.

Throughout the school, children have opportunities to learn instruments such as the guitar, drums, saxophone, keyboard, flute, clarinet and voice through peripatetic lessons, to build upon their own prior musical knowledge. At Oreston, we also aim to provide lots of opportunities for children to perform and showcase the musical skills they have learnt through class assemblies, Christmas performances, musical productions within school and performances within the local community.

**Impact**

Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows them to discover areas of strength, as well as areas they might like to improve upon. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a child may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music in as many ways as they choose – either as a listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives.

**Music in the Early Years:**

From an early age, children at Oreston Community Academy are encouraged to explore and play with a wide range of musical instruments, as well as being provided with opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in music. All children are encouraged to explore music through singing songs, making their own music and experimenting with changing them to create their own melodies.