Music Policy

April 2025

To be reviewed: April 2026

At Raddlebarn Primary School we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop skills and appreciate a wide variety of musical forms.

The National Curriculum states:

"Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. 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. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon."

We recognise the importance of music in the curriculum and aim to offer pupils a wide range of musical experiences.

Objectives

- Encourage our children's understanding and enjoyment of music through an active involvement in listening, improvising, composing and performing.
- Provide opportunities for children to develop their individual skills, sharing experience and co-operating with others.
- Help children to develop an awareness of musical traditions and developments from a variety of cultures.

Teaching and Learning

At Raddlebarn, we aim to make music an enjoyable learning experience. Children are encouraged to participate in a variety of musical experiences, through which we endeavour to build up the confidence of all children. They are also given the opportunity to discover, explore and develop technical skills through practical music lessons.

Music is taught in Nursery and Reception following the early learning goals laid out in the Expressive Arts and Design section of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is supplemented by the updated 'Development Matters' document and for Years 1-6 following attainment targets detailed by the National Curriculum 2014.

Teachers are encouraged to establish cross curricular links wherever possible, especially to fit in with the creative curriculum. This is because we recognise that music can enhance other areas of the curriculum.

The aims of the subject in our school are:

- To understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.
- 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.
- For pupils to learn to sing and use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others.
- For pupils to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, to use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

Music lessons are timetabled to the equivalence of 30 minutes a week.

The majority of music teaching from Reception up to Year 6 is supported by **Charanga**, an award-winning scheme of work. This ensures the coverage of the objectives set out in the National Curriculum. It serves as a base to aid and enhance our teaching, but is not intended to be rigidly adhered to. The scheme builds upon prior learning, ensures progression and offers challenge for children as they move through the school. However, teachers also have access to other ideas and resources, and are expected to make professional judgements about adapting materials to meet the needs of the pupils. In Nursery lessons are planned and delivered in line with the early learning goals.

As well as music lessons in class, there is a weekly class singing assembly, where children are given the opportunity to sing a variety of different songs as a group. Children are also given opportunities to listen to well-known classic pieces of music during assemblies and at other times of the day. This exposes the children to a wide range of different musical genres and composers and helps widen the children's knowledge of music from different eras and cultures. Throughout the year, class assemblies take place where children have the chance to learn and perform music and songs linked to their curriculum topics.

Assessment

Assessment is undertaken as part of a broader evaluation of pupil progress measured against National Curriculum assessment criteria and also the Statutory Framework for EYFS.

The coordinator will monitor ongoing assessment to ensure that:

- it is embedded as an essential part of teaching and learning.
- it involves sharing learning objectives and success criteria with pupils.
- it aims to let pupils to know and recognise the standards they are aiming for.
- it provides subject specific feedback which leads pupils to recognising their next steps and how to take them.
- it involves both teacher and pupils reviewing and reflecting on progress made

Extra Curriculum Opportunities

All pupils from Year 1 upwards are offered the chance to learn how to play a musical instrument. They are able to choose from a range of Woodwind, Brass and Stringed instruments. Instruments are loaned free of charge and lessons are taught by specialist music teachers from the Birmingham Music Service. Pupils are encouraged, when ready, to sit music exams offered by accredited examination boards.

We provide many opportunities for pupils to learn pieces and perform together as a group. They have been able to take part in various workshops and perform in online festivals. In school, music concerts are held over the course of the academic year, allowing pupils an opportunity to perform before a live audience, showcase their achievements and celebrate their successes. Our Strings Ensemble, led by one of our specialist music teachers, meets every week to play together. They have performed at various concerts, not only in school, but also in concerts alongside other Birmingham schools at some of the city's prestigious music venues.

We are fortunate to have an intake containing many able and talented children, that when harnessed with the teaching of the Birmingham Music Service specialists, produces music of a standard way beyond the usual expectation at this age.

Our choirs in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 meet regularly to sing together. They perform at various school events and also take part in local festivals and concerts.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Music provides many opportunities to promote:

Spiritual development, through developing pupils' awareness of the power of music to take the listener out of the commonplace and helping pupils use music to express and reflect on their own thoughts and feelings.

Moral development, through helping pupils exercise responsibility in the choices and decisions they, and others, make as part of the creative process, valuing their own and others' work and recognising the effect of music (for example, its use in advertising and propaganda, and its misuse in sound pollution).

Social development, through helping pupils share in music making and develop a sense of social cohesion, recognising the value of different contributions and their own responsibility to support and enrich the work of others, and recognising the need for different roles in group performance.

Cultural development, through helping pupils recognise how music influences and reflects the way people think and feel, relating music to the time and place in which it was created and performed, and through analysing, evaluating and reflecting on music from contrasting traditions and identifying how and why some aspects change or stay the same.

Music and Inclusion

At our school, we teach music to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all pupils. Through our

music teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Role of the Music Coordinator

The music coordinator will:

- ensure the implementation of the music policy consistently throughout the school.
- oversee the coverage and delivery of music.
- provide advice and support for staff when requested.
- monitor and review on-going assessments.
- monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of music teaching in school.
- organise resources to support the school music policy and scheme of work.
- co-ordinate purchasing, organisation and distribution of resources.
- arrange extra curriculum opportunities for pupils, such as concerts and visits.
- keep informed about current developments in music and attend training sessions offered.