Subject Story: Music

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Friendship.**

- Through children working together and performing together, encouraging each other as they travel outside of their comfort zones trying new instruments, techniques and experiences.
- Invaluable friendships across the school in choirs/extra-curricular activities. Here children have opportunities to share with other choirs from local and non-local communities.

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Responsibility.**

- All children are encouraged to be responsible for their own participation and engagement in every musical activity, even if this is outside of their experience as yet, and this will then directly relate to their successes.
- Our children are also actively encouraged to take responsibility for all our school instruments and for our music room.

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Honesty.**

- Children learn to listen to each other when they are performing or composing, and they learn to be constructively honest about both their own work and that of others ("Two Stars**" and Spotlight).
- They learn to be critical listeners; the aim being not that they love everything they listen to, but are able to express an independent opinion about what they are listening to.

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Love.**

- Many of our children develop a real and lasting appreciation of music. This might manifest itself in different ways; through singing, beatboxing, playing an instrument, or simply through listening to music or songs that they enjoy.
- If a love of performing is also discovered, this is actively appreciated and encouraged. Many of the school songs that we sing also purposefully focus on love in different forms.

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Courage**.

- We know that not every child is an extrovert performer, and for some even singing in a group requires much courage. By forming a lasting relationship with a child through regular lessons, it is possible to actively encourage acts of courage, knowing what every individual needs to succeed. Performance, even for the bravest, takes much courage and is highly valued here.

In our Music curriculum you will see our value of **Respect.**

- The children learn to show respect for each other and appreciate each other's different talents, musical ideas and interests, and these this is likely to be different to their own.
- Children learn to respect and value music from different cultures, countries and eras, even if it is totally outside of their previous experience of music.

Children at St. Martin's say this about Music:

I really like coming to Music because sometimes I feel sad before, and it always makes me feel happier - Year 2
We are always supposed to have fun. Music is the greatest thing at school. It has a beat and I like beats - Year 1
Music can be whatever you want, it can be high or low, it can be quick or slow and it can be inspirational – Year 5
I love music because then you can play whatever instrument you like. We have a great music teacher who organises special music events and also lets us play loads of instruments – Year 5
Music is my favourite subject! It is so fun, you can learn an instrument, sing songs and have a lot of fun! Music is my life force – Year 6

If you were to walk into a Music lesson at St. Martin's you would see:

- Children actively involved and enjoying lessons.
- Every lesson starts with a feature song and children know this helps prepare them for singing.
- Instruments are frequently involved. Correct technique is modelled and encouraged.
- Children learn part playing, improvisation and music notation from EY onwards.
- Children progressively learn correct 'Musical language'.
- Reflection time enables the children to access key lesson points and new learning, and where appropriate, consider their own next steps.

In our Music curriculum you will see children learning through **exciting, engaging learning experiences which develop their 'cultural capital'.**

- A dedicated room allows for private instrumental and band playing tuition.
- Choirs perform in the community for charity and regularly in festivals, fully encouraging 'personal best'.
- Regular singing opportunities, uniting us all, feature throughout the year, including at church services.

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Our **agreed consistencies** for Music are:

- Every class has a weekly music lesson with a specialist music teacher.
- Every child sings together with their Key Stage weekly.
- There is an active learn approach to music from EY.
- Children learn an instrument every year from Yr 2-6
- Our learning is hands-on, fun and fast-paced.
- Performing opportunities are provided, both in a class context and for a wider audience.



In our Music curriculum you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **work with resilience – strive.**
Music is another language, and, as such, we realise success does not always come easily to all. Our children strive for musical understanding, enjoy the challenges that are laid before them, and are encouraged not to give up. Some public performances during the year demand a high standard of performance, and these serve not only as a personal measure of success through sustained effort, but they then are an inspiration to others.

In our Music curriculum you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **dream big - aspire.**
Children regularly engage with increasing understanding in improvisation, which then leads to them being independently creative and confident when encouraged to create their own music or lyrics through the school. Many children are keen to either perform or show what they have created, which is actively encouraged and celebrated in the music room, whether to a wider audience or just an audience of one.

In our Music curriculum you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **flourish - succeed**.
Children are continually encouraged to get the absolute most they can from every musical experience, for the many skills, achievements, benefits and joys this has to offer in its own right. Importantly, we know that the regular, sustained and progressive engagement in music that we offer at St. Martin's helps with their progress and development in ***core subjects***, further equipping them to flourish and succeed as a young person.

In our Music curriculum you will see that we value **inclusion and diversity.**

- Music is magical - it can be accessed by anyone regardless of background or ability.
- Provision is made for all children with no prior conclusions as to ability.
- Children are actively encouraged to value and positively appreciate the contributions of all. This can be seen regularly in lessons.

In our Music curriculum you will see how we develop our children's language, **including subject specific and technical vocabulary.**

- Music vocabulary is used from EY and is revisited, used accumulatively, and repetitively throughout our curriculum.
- Children are provided with visuals of words, including graphic scores, and are encouraged to read them. Lyric reading for singing is a regular, valued and expected part of their week.

British Values and **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Learning** (SMSC) in Music:

Spiritual: We sing carefully selected songs to inspire and unite, where we, at significant times throughout the year, learn through the lyric messages of the songs. **Social & Moral (inc British Values):** Children support each other in their music learning and encourage each other's efforts. They learn to work as a team and are encouraged in a class or as a choir by each other's efforts, to know they have succeeded in creating something not only worth listening to but worth actually being part of. They learn to handle their own emotions evoked through singing, music listening, whether through passive or active participation, and lyric and music composition, when they work together or solo to create something they are proud of. **Cultural:** Music can transcend barriers to learning caused by ability, stereotype or social background, and is a fantastic confidence builder. Children learn to really listen, not only to each other, but to music of other cultures, genres and times, and this helps deepen their understanding of their world.

Children achieve well in music. Highlights of **outcomes** with children working at expected level or above for last academic year are:

- In KS2 94% of children within year groups met or exceeded end of year expectations.
- In KS1 96% of children met or exceeded end of year expectations.

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Successes in 2025-6.

- Achieved the Music Mark again for this year.
- Embedded the Model Music Curriculum, reworking our progression of skills in line with this (WIP) Music technology UKS2 very successful
- Timetable fully inclusive for music for all classes weekly
- The children from EY-Y6 fully used to playing instruments Regular 'SingOuts' for parents normalising performance.
- Great singing and listening in assemblies and seasonal celebrations. Spotlight superstar performers.
- Choirs: Charity/Atkins/Ashley Centre/O2YV /Playhouse/St Martin's has Talent/Singouts.
- Fuse drumming/Rockin Recorders.
- St Martin's has Talent & Re-run/Y6 Production/Leaver's Service

Priorities for 2026-7: Continue driving home confidence and progression in **NOTATION** and **RHYTHM SKIL**LS through weekly visual retrieval. Continued drive on vocabulary retrieval, particularly with the skills and elements of music. Focus this year too on **creative music**.

Continue to try to forge links with local secondary schools

Revisit instruments learned last year, to embed learning and enable further progression. FUSE DRUMMING and recorders extra-curricular in LKS2 – UKS2 requested more boomwhackers.

Ensure assessment is focussed, updated and evidenced mainly through formative assessment, I can statements and individual assessment, including individual feedback opportunities through YUMU in UKS2