



Cromwell Academy Music Strategy Statement

Intent

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At Cromwell Academy we align with the aims of the National Curriculum but also go further to ensure that our musicians experience a breadth of different musical experiences across a range of instruments, enabling them to make informed decisions about the type of musician they would like to be and providing a crucial stepping stone into the creative arts. This is why, at Cromwell, music is not only taught as a discreet discipline but also provides valuable learning opportunities across the whole curriculum: from singing and chanting songs to support knowledge acquisition, learning rhymes to support vocabulary and chanting key concepts in maths. The possibilities are endless.

We recognise that engagement with music not only builds skill, pride and confidence, but also supports the development of communication and language, positive mental health, creativity, discipline, coordination and memorisation, as researched by the NAfME.

Our curriculum is designed and sequenced to ensure that learning builds on prior learning lesson by lesson, term by term and year on year. Children gain a firm understanding of what music is through appraising, singing, performing, evaluating, analysing and composing across a wide variety of periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the local and global context, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to contribute to the wider community. We view our pupils as key contributors to the music world and prioritise performing for the local and wider community.

Long Term Planning and Progression

The music curriculum follows a sequence across the 5 key areas:

- Instrumental Specialism
- Listening & Appraising
- Singing & Performing
- Composing & Improvising
- Musical Notation

A sample of how music progresses is shown below:



Knowledge/Skill	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Instrument / Specialism	Percussion & Voice	Percussion & Voice	Percussion & Voice	Wind- Recorder	String- Ukulele	Tuned percussion- glockenspiel or Keyboard	Music Technology
Performance- Singing & Instrument	Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes. Become confident in voice projection.	Follow instructions about when to play or sing. Use voice expressively by singing songs and speaking chants/rhymes. Clap and repeat short rhythmic patterns. Repeat short melodic patterns. Make different sounds with voice and instruments. Make a sequence of sounds.	Use voice creatively by singing songs, following melodic patterns and speaking chants/rhymes. Know how to keep and change the pulse when performing simple patterns. Learn how to perform a range of simple and complex rhythms in unison. Develop confidence in using different pitches with their voices. Explore changing tempo.	Learning how to perform and arrange performances for different dynamics. Learn about polyrhythms through body percussion. Explore pitch through recorder and singing. Sing and perform with expression. Perform clear notes on a recorder.	Learn how to control the ukulele to change the timbre. Learn how to play chords on ukulele. Introduction to Italian terminology for pitch and tempo. Sing songs from memory with accurate pitch.	Sing a simple second part of a two-part song with confidence. Perform simple melodies from slave notation. Maintain dynamic changes in a performance. Maintain own part in a performance. More needed here ref instrument	Maintain own part in a round with confidence. Perform parts from memory. Take the lead in a performance. Learn about chords and their harmonic structures. Introduction to terminology: Polyphonic, unison, homophonic.

Implementation

All our pupils participate in weekly music lessons, delivered by a specialist music teacher.

Each half term, a topic is taught that focuses on a particular musical element/dimension. E.g. harmony. In line with the rest of the Cromwell curriculum and drawing upon Charanga's spiral of musical development.

Each topic will have elements of performance, improvisation and composition linked to that particular element/dimension. This is outlined in more detail in the medium term plans.

Appraisal takes place within lessons to set the scene or support evaluation.

The choice of music is linked to the topic, element or musical concept that is being covered. E.g. when looking at ostinatos and repetition, the children will listen to minimalist composers and Brazilian samba. This helps the pupils develop an understanding of how the elements are used by different composers across different musical traditions and allow pupils to develop an understanding of musical history.

In addition to the teaching of music, pupils take part in regular concerts, performances and projects (such as the Cambridgeshire Song Writers Project in 2021) both internally and externally. As pupils are introduced to different instruments from a range of families, they are able to rehearse their skills as part of the Cromwell Arts Apprenticeship Programme; forming and rehearsing in bands, groups and using technology to work on their compositions.

Weekly music assemblies provide further opportunities to explore collective singing, performance, music history and composition and draws upon the contributions of pupils' recognised talents in this area.

Pupils have access to individual and small group music tuition, taught by a specialist to further progress their knowledge and skills outside of the usual curriculum.

Impact

Music knowledge and skills will be continuously assessed through observation in lessons. Previously covered musical elements will be revised and recalled throughout each topic through careful questioning and application of skills in meaningful contexts. They will acquire a breadth of musical knowledge, expertise and skill, forming a firm foundation that will enable them to make creative choices and move forward in the arts.

Every child will learn to play an instrument and be provided with opportunities to explore their creativity using these experiences and every child will be given the opportunity to perform as part of a band or group in a school event.

Music will be threaded throughout our curriculum, enhancing pupils' experiences, motivation, cognition and promoting enjoyment. Pupils at Cromwell Academy will leave our school with a love of music and creativity.