



Music Curriculum Intent at St John's Catholic Primary School, Trowbridge.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." - Plato

At St John's Catholic Primary School our intent is to instil a passion for music and to aim for St John's to be a place where children are inspired to sing, play, appreciate and develop a life-long love of music. We want music to be valued for what it truly is: '...a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity' (National Curriculum 2014).

We intend for music to be inclusive through whole class music lessons, whole school singing assemblies and opportunities provided throughout the year. Examples include: KS2 being welcome to join the school choir, there are no auditions. All children have the opportunity to learn the violin in year 3 and 4 within class. Children have access to private instrumental lessons from visiting peripatetic teachers and can enjoy playing in a folk group. Children in Key Stage 2 enjoy joining thousands of other children in Young Voices in Birmingham each year to ignite their love of singing.

As a Catholic school we aim to use the power of music as a means of encompassing many of the Catholic Social Teachings set out in the 'Caritas in Action' by the Diocese of Salford. We intend to enhance our Catholic faith through music. As a Catholic Primary School we have the wonderful opportunity to enable the children to express and share their faith through the medium of music as we gather in our collective worship and assemblies and sing as a whole school. The children are also encouraged to use and share their musical gifts and talents during class, whole school and parish masses to which parents and various members of our community are welcome to attend.

Music is also used as a vehicle to reach out to and give to the community around us, for example singing at Dorothy House and Wingfield Nursing Home at Christmas time. This not only encourages the children to be generous in sharing their time and talents with others through performing much loved carols but also enables them to appreciate, comfort and empathise with older, sick and more vulnerable members of our community thus fulfilling the school mission statement at St John's which is to 'grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus'.

In this divided world, music is a great unifying force. Fletcher (2014) describes her action research into the effect of listening to music in the classroom and found that 'Music provides a shared experience that helps students develop a sense of

belonging'. St John's has a population of 31% of children speaking English as a second language and music comes to the fore as it is a universal language through which to communicate.

Finally, at St John's we believe strongly in nurturing the child as a whole. We believe music can be used as a wonderful tool to help children develop physically, spiritually, socially, creatively and mentally. In today's society children are suffering more and more with mental health issues. We believe that music can be used as a much needed escape from the real world and a way of expressing their emotions. Holland (2014:30) makes the point that 'music is truly rewarding; it puts a smile on the face and is a wonderful escape from the stresses and strains of modern-day life.'

Listening to music is often used effectively during our daily Mindfulness sessions.

At St John's we seek to develop the musicianship of both our staff and pupils so that all can receive the multitude of lifelong benefits music can offer.