Belswains Primary School- Music Guidelines 2026-2027

Intent:

At Belswains Primary School, we believe that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. Through our music curriculum, we aim to inspire a lifelong love of music whilst developing confidence, creativity, self-expression and a sense of achievement in all pupils.

We use the Charanga Creative Music Scheme, which enables children to become performers, composers, listeners and evaluators. Through singing, listening, playing instruments, improvising, composing and performing, children develop a secure understanding of the inter-related dimensions of music, including pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation.
Our music curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop confidence and enjoyment when participating in musical activities.
- Listen to and appreciate music from a wide range of cultures, genres, traditions and historical periods.
- Sing and perform with increasing accuracy, expression and control.
- Explore and play tuned and untuned instruments.
- Improvise and compose their own music using voices, instruments and music technology.
- Develop resilience, collaboration and performance skills through ensemble work.
- Express ideas, thoughts and emotions through music.
- Understand the value and significance of music within their own lives and wider communities.

Children are encouraged to participate in a variety of musical opportunities including classroom music lessons, singing assemblies, performances, instrumental tuition, choir events and whole-school productions.

Implementation:

Early Years Foundation Stage

In EYFS, music forms an important part of children's expressive arts and communication development. Through continuous provision and adult-led activities, children explore pulse, rhythm, pitch, singing, movement, listening and performance. Using the Charanga Creative Music Scheme, children develop musical understanding through engaging themes and songs.

Nursery Units:

Bounce Into Action Children develop beat awareness and gross and fine motor control through movement and action songs.
Rainbow Magic Children learn that songs can tell stories whilst developing their singing voices and listening skills.
Happy Talk Children sing complete songs and respond to musical cues and changes.
Amazing Animals Children move creatively to music and begin expressing thoughts and feelings about what they hear.
Number Fun Children keep a steady beat and explore percussion instruments with increasing control.

Beep Beep Toot Toot Children improve their instrumental skills and learn to start and stop accurately in response to signals.

Reception Units:
Chant to the Animals Children explore chants and storytelling through spoken rhythm and musical language.

Creative Moves Children identify and move to the beat whilst developing expressive and controlled movement.
Lilting Lullaby Children begin to pitch-match accurately and experience different rhythmic patterns.
Number Time Children sing expressively and explore melody shapes through listening and singing activities.
Wellbeing Matters Children explore emotions through music and learn to respond to changes in dynamics.
Rhythm Adventure Children perform songs rhythmically and begin composing simple rhythms using words and patterns.

Key Stage 1

In KS1, all staff follow the National Curriculum, delivered through the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. In Year 1, children develop their understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch through singing, chanting, rapping and movement activities. They explore tempo, melodic shape, ostinato patterns, graphic notation, musical story-telling, and the difference between rhythm and pitch, whilst beginning to compose and perform simple musical ideas. In Year 2, children build upon these skills by exploring timbre, dynamics, tempo and improvisation, learning to play tuned instruments, recognising orchestral instrument families, developing notation skills and performing with increasing confidence and expression. Throughout KS1, children listen to a wide range of music from different cultures, historical periods and genres, and begin to discuss, compare and respond to music using appropriate musical vocabulary.

Key Stage 2

In KS2, Belswains follows the National Curriculum, delivered through the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. In Year 3, children develop notation skills, ensemble performance, conducting responses, composition, graphic scores and an appreciation of music from different historical periods, including Baroque music. In Year 4, pupils extend their understanding of pentatonic scales, structured composition, two-part singing, musical traditions, soundscapes, recording technology and musical contrasts such as dynamics, articulation and texture. In Year 5, children further develop improvisation, notation, vocal harmony, samba performance, hip-hop composition and the use of music technology through YuStudio, whilst exploring ternary form, chord structures and musical analysis. In Year 6, pupils refine their compositional, technological and performance skills through the study of Grime, remixing, digital soundscapes and advanced ensemble work. Across KS2, children develop confidence in singing and performing, deepen their understanding of notation and musical structure, compose increasingly complex pieces, and critically listen to and evaluate music from a range of genres, cultures and historical contexts.

Wider Musical Opportunities

At Belswains Primary School, pupils are encouraged to participate in a broad range of musical experiences beyond their classroom curriculum. These include:

- Weekly singing assemblies.
- Whole-school performances and celebrations.
- EYFS Nativity performances.
- KS1 and KS2 productions.
- School choir opportunities.
- Instrumental tuition delivered by specialist peripatetic teachers.
- Opportunities to perform in the local community and at wider musical events.
- Use of digital music technology, including Charanga's YuStudio and Music Explorer platforms.

Impact

By the time pupils leave Belswains Primary School, they will have developed a broad and progressive musical understanding. Pupils will be able to listen critically, sing confidently, perform collaboratively, improvise creatively and compose independently. They will understand how music can communicate ideas, emotions and cultural identity, and will have experienced success through a wide range of musical opportunities. Assessment is ongoing throughout lessons and is informed by the progression within the Charanga Creative Music Scheme, including the learning objectives and 'I Can' statements. Teachers use formative assessment to identify next steps, celebrate achievement and ensure progression for all learners, including those with SEND. This approach ensures that every child has the opportunity to develop a lifelong appreciation of music and the confidence to participate in musical experiences both within and beyond school.