

CLIFFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
INFANT SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT FOR MUSIC

To be Reviewed : July 2016

Reviewed by : S Preston

Rationale

At Clifford School we see music as a very important part of the curriculum. It is an area where all children can be given an opportunity to express themselves and to share in an experience, which has value for them as individuals, and as members of a larger group.

Music lessons are occasions when children can develop and show ability in different ways from those that are available in other subjects, and we view this opportunity as very valuable and important, especially for the less able child. Encouragement is given for all children of whatever musical ability or aptitude, to experiment, participate, share and above all, enjoy their musical activities.

Music is very important and valuable for children with special needs and for those with emotional problems, as this is a subject where traditional or expected difficulties can be overcome. It is equally important for children with high ability, and at Clifford we encourage all children to be a part of the musical life of the school.

As well as music lessons, which cover the whole range of the National Curriculum, we provide opportunities for children to be involved in other musical events such as concerts, singing performances, Christmas nativities, Harvest festivals and performances in the Cathedral. There are recorder groups in school and a singing club. We have regular rhythm sessions with a drummer and encourage visits out of school to musical events.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to educate the "whole" child at Clifford School and we see music as being very important in this aim. The children are exposed to a wide variety of

musical experiences and activities throughout their time in school and each child is given the chance to develop their musical ability and aptitude in various ways. We try to ensure therefore that the child will be able to participate in different aspects of this subject, and thus enrich his/her education and development as a person.

Children will be taught all the elements of the programmes of study in the National Curriculum during their time at Clifford School, and will have opportunity to sing, perform, listen, evaluate, appraise, create, compose and make and share music together, in all classes. We seek to develop their individual talents, aptitudes and abilities throughout their time at Clifford School. We have introduced a Music Day as part of our Arts Week and this has proved to be an enjoyable and stimulating musical experience.

Methods

Children are taught music in various ways and groupings. The whole school meets together to be taught new songs and hymns for worship, and also to learn special songs for a concert or a performance. The children are introduced to new music each week as a whole school, when the music for assemblies is presented. Singing lessons take place weekly, all classes are taught together as a whole school. Other singing lessons take place within each class at other times.

We have a specialist music teacher for all three classes. All elements of the National Curriculum are taught to all the classes, with development of skills and aptitudes built into the teaching from Reception through Year 1 and Year 2. Children are encouraged to participate in music lessons as individuals, and in small groups as well as within the whole class situation.

Music lessons are sometimes planned in conjunction with the topic that is being studied. Music is also taught as a unique and separate part of the Curriculum and care is taken to present the children with many different types of music, from classical to popular, and from different countries and cultures.

The elements of the programme of study are taught each year so that ability and aptitude are encouraged in such areas as pitch, rhythm, composition, performance, listening and appraisal. This would include their own music making as well as that of their classmates and of music that they would listen to digitally, live or from a CD, for appraisal and enjoyment.

We have a Clifford Choir led by the headteacher. Choir practise after school on a weekly basis and also perform for various special occasions or on request, for example at the Christmas Fayre.

Resources

1. Collection of CD's of various styles and types of music representing many composers and different cultures and societies.
2. Music centre (records, CD's, tape, and radio) and amp.
3. Piano in hall.
4. Collection of percussion instruments, added to at regular intervals.
5. Descant recorders and recorder books, and interactive recorder software.
6. Song books, hymn books, regularly updated.
7. Library books.
8. Music stands.
9. CD's of worship songs to use in collective worship.
10. Sets of boomwhackers for use by whole class.
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12. School ipod.
13. IWB in the hall.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Children are monitored throughout the years and records are kept as each part of the programme of study is experienced. The music teacher Karen Cooke is instrumental in providing evidence for much of the music work.

Music to begin and end the school assemblies and worship is chosen either by staff or pupils, and is chosen by a theme. It is introduced to the children at the start of an assembly.