



Our Vision for Music

“Music [...] gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything... Without music, life would be an error.” - Plato

At Gotham Primary School, we recognise that music in Britain is part of a long and rich heritage: throughout history composers and performers from every musical genre have made their mark. Music helps unite pupils in all aspects of their communities and celebrates the diversity of British culture. Music transcends all walks of life and is instrumental in maintaining sound mental health. We believe all Gotham pupils have the right to access and enjoy aspects of music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. We encourage children to nurture a love of music and expression, being mindful that most children will have their first experience of music at school.

As well as the benefits to language, reasoning and memory, the creative and varied music curriculum at Gotham contributes towards our pupils' sense of achievement and emotional literacy. The skills taught to our young musicians will empower our children to become resilient, ambitious and open-minded learners, exposing them to unfamiliar instruments, cultures and terminology. With this in mind our curriculum follows our whole school approach of metacognition and self-regulation, providing opportunities for children to 'have a go', make mistakes and evaluate independently.

Each scheme of learning is taken from the National Curriculum and is based on the key skills essential for a musician as well as memorable experiences such as performances, nativities and whole school musical assemblies. Whole class music teaching occurs weekly to enable a consistent approach that embeds prior learning with a strong sense of challenge. These lessons enable pupils to access all aspects of music incorporating theory, appraisal and performance.

Our approach to the teaching of Music reflects our school culture, one of metacognition and self-regulation. We equip children with the tools to: activate their prior knowledge, plan, monitor and evaluate. Children reflect on their own work and the work of others so that we are:

Being the best we can be together!

Our Mission Statement.

National Curriculum of Music

Purpose of study

Music embodies one of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality music curriculum should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own pieces of music. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of music, its history and cultural significance. As a culturally diverse nation music is essential to contribute to children becoming successful, valued members of society.

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- compose creative music, exploring, recording and reflecting on their experiences
- plan, rehearse and perform to create memorable, musical experiences
- become proficient in singing, playing an instrument, musical notation and terminology
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of music
- be familiar with great musicians, composers and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Subject content

Key stage 1

Pupils should be taught:

- to sing songs as an ensemble and perform to an audience
- to follow instructions on how and when to sing/play
- to develop an awareness of pitch
- to create sequences of long and short sounds
- to recognise changes in music including pulse, dynamics, timbre and pitch
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Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

Pupils should be taught:

- to sing a solo or split part in an ensemble and maintain a harmony
- to maintain their own part within increasingly complex musical arrangements
- to compose and perform melodies
- use musical vocabulary to confidently describe aspects of music
- understand how lyrics use cultural context and have social meaning
- refine and improve own and others work