

# Ashmole Primary School



## Music Policy

Created by: Rebecca Dwyer

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## Ashmole Music Policy 2016

### **MUSIC POLICY**

**The aim** of music education at Ashmole School is to stimulate creative ability to develop aesthetic sensitivity in all pupils through providing opportunities to develop performing, composing and listening as required in the National Curriculum. Through a variety of musical activities, including use of ICT, children will develop skills on a personal level as well as having the opportunity to work co-operatively with others.

Children will have the opportunity to take part in music activities in a variety of situations including class, assembly, extended curriculum and instrument tuition.

The policy of the school is to offer equality of opportunity to all children irrespective of race, gender, or background, and to cater as far as possible to the individual needs of all children in respect of their capabilities, interests and expectations. Parents of pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant will receive assistance with payment for instrument tuition; the school will subsidise two-thirds of the cost to parents.

Ashmole School takes into consideration the following articles (from The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) in respect of children's rights through our teaching of music:

- Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.
- Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

#### **Children benefit from the music curriculum in the following ways:**

- Aesthetic - music is a means of self-expression which can enable children to understand their own emotions and feelings
- Creative - music is an area in which children can express themselves through their own creativity as well as being open to the ideas of others.
- Cultural - music provides an insight into the cultural heritage of ourselves and others, encouraging children to broaden their experience and knowledge and helping them to respect the values and cultures of others
- Social - musical activities help children to develop teamwork and leadership skills and to value the ideas and opinions of others

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- General skills - music develops many skills which are valuable across the curriculum, such as listening skills, fine motor skills, concentration and language development.
- Personal – the learning of a musical instrument requires organisation, perseverance and commitment.

### **Children have the opportunity to experience musical activities in the following areas:**

- In class where they have the opportunity to work as a whole class, in groups or individually. At Ashmole, in Key Stage 2 we use the Charanga scheme of work to deliver music teaching and learning.
- In assemblies where quality singing, music playing and active listening are encouraged.
- Through the LMM provision in the school.
- In preparation for musical exams.

### **LMM Provision**

At Ashmole, we work with London Music Masters (LMM) to deliver a comprehensive and high quality programme of music education and instrumental tuition.

*“At London Music Masters (LMM) we believe that music is of inherent cultural value and that it can have a lifelong impact on the social, educational and cultural development of children and communities. Together with our partner schools we provide access to some of the highest quality music education that is currently being delivered in state primary schools in the UK.”*

Music education through LMM begins in the EYFS with weekly Musicianship lessons in Reception, led by an experienced Early Years Music Specialist during the school day. Musicianship has been specifically developed to train the musical ear of the child in a fun and creative way. It makes use of song, movement and play - appealing to visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles - and the children are introduced to musical notation and the building blocks of music: rhythm, pitch, melody, pulse, dynamic and timbre.

In Year 1 and Year 2 each child receives their own violin and will be taught to play in small group lessons twice a week and in pairs once a week. Children are 'sized-up' for their custom-sized violins and have lessons in pairs and small groups to which parents and family members are encouraged to attend. Each violin teacher is trained in a method that draws heavily on the Suzuki method. At the end of the second year of whole class violin training, when the children are seven years old, we expect that their playing standard will be the equivalent of ABRSM grade 1.

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From Year 3 onwards, children and families can choose to carry on with the violin. Children who wish to, continue with the instrument, receiving group and paired tuition. Some children may also take part in programmes that offer them individual tuition. From Year 3 onwards, parents pay for lessons. For children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant, the school subsidises two-thirds of the cost of lessons so that these children are afforded the same opportunities as their peers.

Gaining experience and confidence through performance is an important part of a child's musical education and a significant aspect of an individual's personal development. Ashmole and LMM work together to provide many performance opportunities in school, in the wider community and at prestigious venues with other musicians.

### **Other areas for consideration:**

- All children and staff are to be aware of any health and safety issues.
- The school has a commitment to monitor, evaluate and assess on a regular basis the effectiveness of its provision and the progress and achievement of individual pupils and to monitor and address issues relating to equal opportunities.
- The school has made a commitment to staff continuing Professional Development and will continue to plan for continuity and achievement across the Key Stages.

**This policy is monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed every two years, or before if necessary.**