



Charles Dickens Primary School

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Music Policy

School ethos

Creativity and excellence are at the heart of everything we do at Charles Dickens Primary School. Children are encouraged to work to the best of their abilities. However, we also want them to have lots of fun along the way. In order to enrich our exciting and diverse curriculum, we offer a continually expanding range of first hand learning experiences and extra-curricular activities, tailored to meet the needs of children at different stages of their school career. We believe that it is important that our classrooms look and feel vibrant and alive and that the creativity exudes from our displays and the presentations and performances of our children. All our children will always make or exceed national expectations of progress and all the staff will support their determination and ambition with outstanding teaching. Through every strand of school life, we aim to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of every child, alongside the academic, to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges that life offers.

This policy is intended to ensure that:

- Children benefit from a creative and stimulating approach to the teaching of Music from age 3.
- There is a consistent approach towards the teaching musical skills through both explicit teaching of skills and a cross-curricular approach throughout the school.

Agreed procedures

Singing is central to the music-making in Charles Dickens School. The School is registered with Sing Up and is currently working towards the Gold Sing Up Award. Children sing in each class everyday, each child (N to Y6) develops singing skills explicitly in weekly training sessions, and the whole school sings together at least on a weekly basis.

Weekly whole-school Vocal Training (N – Y6)

- Progression of vocal and musical skills covered over the year, including listening appraising and performing
- Wide-range of songs musical styles covered including multicultural, classical, pop and folk
- Songs reflect a school-wide theme, such as a religious festival, a citizenship theme or a cultural or community event
- All important events (eg beginnings and ends of term, leaving assemblies, AGMs, anniversaries and celebrations etc) are celebrated through songs often especially composed for the occasion.

KS2 choir

- The choir is chosen through an audition process. Over 50% of KS2 audition to be in the choir.
- Choir follows progression of advanced vocal and musical skills over the year. Repertoire is more challenging and advanced including classical music and part-singing.
- Choir performs regularly at school assemblies, school events, cultural events (such as the Thames Festival, The Royal Albert Hall Peace Prom) and for the local community (The Dog and Pot, Borough Market, a local Stroke Centre)

Instrumental Music

Around 80 children study Suzuki violin, keyboard or trumpet. Each child receives a weekly paired lesson from a professional musician. In addition, the Suzuki violin children have a weekly group lesson. Lessons follow a scheme, and progress is monitored and communicated regularly. Parents receive an annual instrumental progress report. Children perform in a termly concert to the whole school and visitors which is recorded and available to see on the school website portal. A Bursary Scheme has been established to support families on a limited income.

Each child in Year 2, 3 and 4 learns recorder through the **Wider Opportunities Programme**. More able players learn treble and tenor recorder in a small recorder ensemble. Children perform in an annual concert to the whole school and visitors which is recorded and available to see on the school website portal.

In November 2013 a new School orchestra was formed, comprising about 16 of the most able musicians. Orchestra meets weekly in the winter and spring terms, developing ensemble skills, learning basic repertoire and performing to the whole school and visitors in the spring term.

Class Music

Over the year each class (Nursery to Year 6) has a Workshop with our Class Music Specialist, supplied by Southwark Music Service (SMS). EYFS received these throughout the year; KS1 and KS2 receive one term's worth of workshops per year. The Workshop focuses on composition, listening, appraising and performing skills. The skills developed in the workshops match the National Curriculum expectations for that year group. The Music Specialist plans the content of the workshop in advance (usually in consultation with the Class Teacher around the curriculum theme for the term), and the progression of skills is agreed. Each performance is recorded and available to see on the school website portal.

In addition, KS2 classes undertake a special, project with a second visiting musician, building on the work done with the SMS specialist.

Assessment

Children are assessed by the SMS specialist against National Curriculum and the Early Learning Goals as outlined in the Early Years Curriculum.

Experiencing High-Quality Music and Dance

Each year every child (Y1- Y6) has the opportunity to see concerts, dance or opera of the highest calibre at concerts given by the LSO, the RPO, ENO, the ROH and other national organisations. In addition sometimes professionals visit the school to give short concerts and demonstrations.

How are we ensuring we are being successful?

- Regular observations of visiting teachers
- Continuous assessment of children's musical progression
- Medium Term plans being created to ensure coverage is being achieved
- Consultation with parents following performances at concerts and public events

Date: 3rd November 2013