Curriculum Intent



At Clearwell C of E Primary School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We ensure that our music curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum and reflects our aims that all children become successful, confident and responsible citizens. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children.

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all children:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

Today we are being **musicians**.

We are leaning music.

Good musicians...

- Play and perform music
- Learn to sing
- Learn to play tuned and untuned instruments
- Improvise and compose music
- Listen to and evaluate a range of musical genres
- Use inter-related dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, temp, timbre, texture, structure
- Use and understand musical notations

How do we teach Music at Clearwell C of E Primary School?

Music in the EYFS is incorporated into the Early Learning Goals for Expressive Arts and Design. Music is known to contribute to a child's personal and social development and enriches their language. Music is an integral part of reception topic work such as counting songs in Maths and learning songs from different cultures to increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

In Key stage 1 and 2 our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing through the use of the Kapow scheme of work. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music and develop the ability to sing in tune with other people. As the children progress through the school they are encouraged to sing songs of increasing difficulty. We provide opportunities for children to create, play, perform and enjoy music. We teach methods to compose music and how to notate their compositions. We encourage active involvement in different forms of music making, whether individual, group, class, key stage or whole school as providing opportunities to listen to and appreciate a wide variety of music, including the works of great composers.

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In addition to the experiences the children have in the classroom, we provide further enriching learning opportunities through participation in musical events and workshops both within and outside school provided by the Gloucestershire Music Service.

At Clearwell C of E Primary School, we ensure children have opportunities that allow them to enjoy and achieve regardless of their ability. We are aware of the individual needs of children and strive to meet these needs through providing suitable resources to allow for success.

Whole School Intent

The curriculum intends to promote Christian values

Clearwell C of E Primary School is a church school that prides itself on teaching Christian values throughout its curriculum and the wider life of school. As a church school, the children learn about Christian values, as well as those of other faiths, in order to prepare them as caring and considerate members of society. All values are nurtured and highlighted throughout all teaching and are fundamental to the children's attitudes towards learning. They help support a growth mindset and also help build relationships and attitudes beyond the curriculum. Periods of reflection and worship support learning attitudes and the ability for children to understand how Christian Values can aid learning new skills; acquiring new knowledge and supporting others to do the same.

Singing in praise is an integral part of our daily act of worship. Children learn a mixture of traditional and modern "assembly" songs. Of the twelve values we focus on in school children display:

Friendship: supporting friends when performing and collaborating with each other to perform together

Perseverance: keeping going when learning songs or to play a new instrument; knowing that while you may not be able to play an instrument **yet**, if you keep trying, you will get there.

Respect: treating others as you would like to be treated and not laughing or being unkind when others are learning how to use instruments – including their voices.

Community: feeling the sense of joy and belonging that comes with joining together to sing and perform; performing for the community.

Responsibility: gaining an understanding that as part of an ensemble, you have to work collaboratively and that everyone contributes to the end product.

The curriculum intends to be experience based

It is recognised that children start school with a wide range of different experiences. The curriculum is planned to extend and enhance these experiences. An in-depth knowledge of each child allows staff to plan individual programmes and experiences to fill in any gaps in developmental progress. Staff ensure children's learning, where possible, is based on hands-on experiences; meeting visitors who can inspire children and visiting places of interest which ensure children have first-hand experiences.

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Practical lessons form a key part of the music curriculum throughout the school. Pupils have regular opportunities to play instruments in music lessons and in sessions where they are taught by specialist teachers from Gloucestershire Music Service. Opportunities to perform are frequent with regular services for parents in church and at community events such as the annual tea party and the Macmillan Coffee Morning. In addition, the school engages in Young Voices choir concerts and puts on a KS2 production on alternate years.

The curriculum intends to use technology to enhance learning:

We recognise that in a society that relies so heavily on technology, we have a duty to prepare our pupils to operate effectively and safely in the modern world. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about how technology can be used to enhance learning and awaken interest in the possibilities that exist now and those that might follow in the future.

Technology is used to promote learning and the acquisition of skills and knowledge in all subjects. It enables pupils to carry out online research, to listen to different genres of music and to compose and create for themselves.

The curriculum intends to raise self-esteem and self-confidence:

Throughout all aspects of school life staff promote a can-do attitude and celebrate the successes, resilience, perseverance and progress of all children. This is particularly apparent at Clearwell as, due to our small numbers, all children are given the opportunity to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence. Clearwell recognises the opportunities that small school teaching can provide and promotes mixed age learning to support and challenge all pupils. The curriculum is structured to provide the children with the opportunity to experience their full entitlement in a supportive environment that celebrates perseverance and resilience to challenge. We recognise that some children may need support to maintain their well-being and we will seek to do this in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

Through frequent opportunities to perform to various audiences – be that their classmates, the other classes in school, parents or the local community - pupils are given the chance to develop their self-esteem and build confidence. Pupils with out of school musical interests are encouraged to share their talents in school.

The curriculum focusses on the core skills of Reading, Writing and Maths:

Staff recognise that for children to succeed beyond the classroom the skills of reading, writing and maths are crucial. Children start school with a range of levels of understanding and development for their age group. The school recognises some children will need extra support in order to close these gaps. Staff work closely with parents and carers to help children succeed.

In order to find out about the past, pupils need to be able to use their reading and writing skills to access information online or in other texts and to communicate what they have learned. When reading music, an understanding of duration is vital for keeping time.

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The curriculum has a clearly mapped out progression of skills and knowledge:

Staff recognise that in order for children to learn effectively, it is important that the taught curriculum is carefully mapped out. The rolling programme of three and four-year curriculum cycles allow children to acquire and develop these skills, revisiting them and reinforcing them continually. This ensures that long term acquisition of skills and knowledge is embedded. Each curriculum area has been considered to ensure that the benefits of mixed age teaching can be maximised whilst still providing adequate challenge and progression within each key phase of primary education.

The school uses the Kapow scheme for music which has a progression of skills embedded in it. This is adapted to reflect the mixed age organisation of our school.

The curriculum has a focus on developing Speech and Language:

Some children enter school with Speech and Language development below the expected level. As such, staff tailor the curriculum to prioritise this aspect and utilise opportunities both within formal and informal learning. From the first weeks at Clearwell, children are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills through performance, stories, singing, rhymes and role play. The unique set up of multi-age classes means that the children have role models to imitate and learn from. The development of oracy skills is key in developing the ability to communicate in writing.

In all subjects, there are opportunities to reflect and share thoughts and ideas. In music, this might be in verbal responses to what children have seen or heard. Children are encouraged to use appropriate subject specific vocabulary in all lessons.