

THORVERTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSIC POLICY

Rationale

The teaching of music is an important component of the “arts” side of the National Curriculum. Children are given opportunities as part of cross-curricular themes or as part of specific activities to participate in musical activities; as individuals, as a whole class, as a whole school and with other schools.

Aims

In Thorverton Primary School, we aim to give children the opportunity to:

- enjoy music that they create themselves
- appreciate a variety of styles of music from different times and cultures
- develop understanding and knowledge of music through making and listening to music, enabling them to work at their own appropriate level and to refine their skills.

Objectives

In Thorverton Primary School:

- music is largely a practical activity
- all children have access to instrument and singing lessons
- all children will have access to recorded music

Content

Creative music

In Thorverton Primary School, from the beginning of KS1 developing through KS2 the children are to be involved in the following activities:

- learning how to order sounds and musical patterns
- exploring sounds by playing a range of percussion instruments
- learning to play in a group with others - expressing their feelings through music
- understanding some of the structures in music
- beginning to understand the power of music in different context
- telling stories with music
- memorising simple rhymes to repeat and to teach others
- exploring ways of recording their music using technology and notation
- learning to play the recorder, flute or guitar (voluntary)
- recording in simple form, using symbols and developing recognised music notation
- using creative dance to interpret their feelings.

Singing

The children sing

- in a whole school or class situation
- rhymes, action songs, popular songs and hymns

Listening and performing

The children listen to, perform and enjoy:

- music from different periods and cultures

Teaching

Music is taught weekly by each class teacher following the National Curriculum programmes of study. There are opportunities for the children to work as a class, in groups and individually. Music is also taught by a peripatetic teacher who comes into school for one half day per week to teach the recorder and flute to individuals and small groups on a voluntary basis. Children with exceptional skills are entered for national music examinations.

Scheme of work

The scheme of work for music is based on the Nelson Music scheme which has been purchased by the school after careful consideration of other schemes, including the Devon Music Project. We feel that the Nelson scheme provides suitable and complete coverage of curriculum based music for the specialist and non specialist music teacher. The scheme provides for gradual progression and is designed to be taught sequentially. It assumes that the most effective way for children to gain an understanding of music is through opportunities to explore, recognise and respond to the musical elements of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. A structured approach is used to help the children build up a vocabulary of sounds yet there is ample opportunity for individual responses.

Resources

All percussion instruments are kept centrally on a moveable trolley in the hall.

Hand chimes and keyboard are kept in the stock room.

Teaching resources are in the staff room.

A selection of audio tapes, CDs, and music books are kept in the hall.

A CD player, microphone, radio and tape deck are in the hall. Each class has its own radio/tape cassette player.

Assessment

Assessment through the key stages is continuous and is performed by the class teacher. Children's work is evaluated during classroom discussion both with individuals and with groups. Formal reporting takes place within the annual report to parents.

This Policy was adopted at a Governors' Meeting on 12 January 1998.