Music Policy

September 2026

Dated: Autumn Term 2024

Review Date: Summer Term 2025

1. Introduction

The objective of this policy is to give direction to staff with regard to providing a sufficiently broad and challenging Music curriculum, ensuring that teaching and learning in Music is of a consistently high standard. All children will have the opportunity to undertake Music throughout their time at Firs Primary School. The teaching of Music is planned to ensure a progression of knowledge and skills across the foundation and primary phases.

2. Aims (Intent)

At Firs Primary we are committed to creating a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity; music. We are dedicated to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality music education which engages and inspires, supporting children to develop a love of music and fostering their musical talent. Through our Music curriculum we aim to build on pupils' self-confidence and give each child a sense of achievement.

Our well thought out curriculum gives children the opportunity to build on their musical vocabulary, perform, listen and evaluate as well as to examine in depth the interrelated dimensions within music. They are then given the opportunity to apply what they have learned through wider opportunities provided to them both in and outside of school.

We also aim to provide further opportunities for personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the teaching of Music. Our aims are to:

- develop the children's knowledge within the classroom while also encouraging children to explore their love of music further through the links we have with Sinfonia Viva, Young Voices, Derby Theatre, Baby People, 2Beez, Wider Ops and Derbyshire Music Partnership. This ensures that all children from any background are exposed to cultural experiences that they may not get elsewhere.

- Encourage children to express their own opinions and let their creativity flow, both within the classroom and our work with outside agencies.

- Teach children how to respect their peers and embrace the cultural diversity within the school.

We aim to encourage parental engagement with the Music curriculum by ensuring parents and carers have the opportunity to watch and support their children in a range of different musical performances throughout the year. These

include performances at; St Luke's Church, Derby Theatre, Sheffield Arena as well as those in school.

3. Organisation (Implementation)

The award winning music scheme Charanga has been carefully chosen in order to ensure that all children are given the opportunity to cover the music national curriculum whilst at Firs. Charanga gives staff high quality planning to follow as well as a list of key vocabulary for each Key Stage and a set of interactive resources available on the whiteboard. Therefore ensuring that both musicians and non-musicians have the confidence, professional knowledge and tools to deliver exciting and progressive music lessons.

Charanga is a flexible scheme which allows staff to differentiate where appropriate for all needs and its specific SEND curriculum allows for more personalised teaching where necessary.

At Firs we have adapted the Charanga scheme to suit the needs of our children. The scheme has been carefully adapted for all year groups (EYFS, KS1 & KS2) to ensure that as children progress through school, they develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to a wide range of high quality pieces of music from different eras, cultures and genres.

COVID Adaptations to the Curriculum

Charanga has designed a COVID curriculum which allows the children to continue with music safely in class whilst following government guidelines for singing and playing instruments. Charanga provides a range of resources and optional replacement activities to ensure that lessons can continue and children are able to continue learning the key skills needed in order to cover the music curriculum successfully.

Wider Opportunities

In Year 4 the children take part in the Wider Ops programme where all children have weekly music lessons to learn the violin. Within these lessons children are also taught about the inter-related dimensions within music and how to use them effectively when playing and performing. Children are then given the opportunity to display their talent alongside the Halle Orchestra at Derby Arena in July.

In the Summer term our year 2 children take part in Singing stars. A programme which is delivered by a professional singer from the Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership. Within these lessons the children are taught about their voice, how to warm it up, their posture, how to sing in unison and 2 part rounds.
The project ends with a performance to parents where the children showcase what they have learnt.

Each week we welcome Rocksteady into school where children from Reception to Year 6 are given the opportunity to sign up for weekly music lessons. Children are given the opportunity to learn the Electric and Bass guitar, Keyboard, Drums or Vocals. Children then learn how to play within a band/ensemble and perform to parents/carers termly.

Firs has a thriving choir that rehearses weekly, giving pupils the opportunity to develop their vocal skills, confidence and love of music. Choir members regularly perform at a range of prestigious events, including Young Voices at Sheffield Arena, where they take part in the world's largest children's choir. Pupils also perform at the Rainbows Children's Hospice Christmas Concert at Derby Cathedral, alongside other concerts and community events throughout the year. These experiences provide invaluable performance opportunities, helping children build confidence, teamwork and a lifelong appreciation of music.

4. Resources

All staff in school have their own individual login and password to access the online Charanga music scheme. Charanga provides staff with high quality planning which allows them to deliver clear, concise and challenging lessons. For each lesson Charanga provides staff with adaptable materials such as IWB resources, music, lyrics, key terminology.

To help enhance lessons a range of musical instruments are available in school including; untuned and tuned percussion (such as glockenspiels, drums etc), electric pianos and guitars.

The Wider Ops Music program supplies violins on loan for Year 4 pupils.

5. Inclusion

In order to help teachers adapt and differentiate lessons according to the needs of the pupils, Charanga offers differentiate resources for those who have SEND and gives those who are Gifted and Talented the opportunity to follow written

music.

Care is taken to ensure that any SEND or catch up interventions are timetabled to ensure that children are never routinely or frequently missing any one subject, and that all children have the opportunity to frequently take part in singing assemblies – never routinely missing these to take part in interventions.

By offering children a curriculum which is tailored to their needs, and through work with outside agencies, we hope to see that all children, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with SEND have the chance to succeed. These experiences will help build on each child's cultural capital , ensuring that skills which have been learnt have been remembered, therefore allowing for new knowledge bases to be created and built upon each year.

6. Assessment and Recording of Work

Teachers use formative assessment throughout lessons (e.g. observations and assessment) and adapt teaching accordingly to address any misconceptions that may arise. Teachers record the first, third and final music lessons to show progression across the unit. Also, at the end of the topic, teachers complete a summative assessment based on whether children have demonstrated through their work that they have met the national curriculum objectives and progression guidance for their phase. This helps the Music Coordinator to monitor progress and attainment in design and technology across the school.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception and Nursery) are assessed using the Early Years Development Matters guidance and at the end of the reception years against the Early Learning Goals. EYFS objectives within the areas of communication and language development, physical development, personal, social, and emotional development, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design all contribute to laying the foundations for effective learning in Music throughout the primary phase.

A variety of methods are used to make a record of music in the school including, video recordings, pictures, pupil assessment sheets and school displays. Work may be placed in individual's topic books or in the whole class topic book with the expectation that progression in learning should be seen across the different year groups within the school.

7. Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in music is the responsibility of the Music Coordinator. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Music, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The Music Coordinator has specially-allocated, regular management time in order to review evidence of the children's work and undertake lesson observations of Music teaching across the school.

The Music Coordinator monitors the quality of teaching and learning, progress and attainment in Music through; book scrutinies, whole class topic book scrutinies, pupil and staff voice, lesson observations, recordings of lessons and analysis of the data which is completed on the relevant assessment grid at the end of each topic

The Music Coordinator writes an annual action plan in which she/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement.

8. Continuing Professional Development

Training will be arranged as and when deemed necessary by the Music Coordinator in response to subject monitoring. In addition to training from external providers CPD may include; signposting to online resources to support subject knowledge, modelling lessons, 1:1 staff coaching.

- **Lead school of music**

Firs Primary is a Lead school of music for the Derby and Derbyshire music partnership. Support schools and staff with CPD, planning and development plans across the city.

9. Review and Adoption

This policy will be reviewed annually, and was last reviewed by the Music Coordinator in July 2025.

Further Documents: Music Progression and Coverage Document