



# **St Margaret Mary's Curriculum Statement**

**We try to follow Jesus in everything we do.**

## **Music (Based on Oldham Music Service)**

### **Intent**

Introducing children to the joy of music is at the heart of what we do. Pupils from all backgrounds will have access to sustained musical opportunities through regular classroom work and music-making for all, complemented by additional tuition, partnerships and extra-curricular activities. SEND pupils are actively encouraged to participate fully as music is often an area of the curriculum which allows them to excel. Additionally, we offer bespoke music-based intervention programmes for children with SEND.

Children will gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres. We are committed to ensuring that children understand the value and importance of music to their own and others' lives and wellbeing and also the impact music has in the wider community.

We provide children with the opportunity to progress to the next level of their creative excellence through both school and Music Centre activities.

### **Implementation**

Our "Curriculum & Progression Framework" is carefully planned to ensure that musical learning is sequenced, enabling children to develop and build upon their musical skills and knowledge from EYFS through to Year 6. Children sing, listen to, compose, perform and evaluate music from a wide range of musical genres, historical periods, styles, genres and traditions. Oldham Music Service teachers plan and deliver bespoke, individualised music lessons to children.

Singing is firmly embedded within our curriculum as the voice is everyone's first instrument and one that everyone can play. It's the most straightforward way to learn and internalise music and to develop musicianship skills. Through unaccompanied singing, a child can begin to acquire skills essential to all musicians: musical memory, inner hearing, true intonation and harmonic awareness.

Sound is the focus of our music curriculum - developing children's aural skills through constantly modelling and introducing notation only after children have developed the ability to hear and repeat the sounds.

In some schools, we teach class Music from EYFS through to Year 6 and in others we teach each class on a carousel system throughout the year. In all cases, lessons are carefully planned so that through singing, using tuned and untuned percussion instruments and body percussion children deepen their knowledge and understanding of and skills within music.

We encourage and, in some schools, deliver whole-school singing assemblies. We provide regular performance opportunities in school concerts, celebration assemblies and through our Oldham Music Service events which include: The Oldham Schools' Music Festival, Oldham's Biggest Band Day, the GM Music Hub Singing Challenge and The GM Music Hub EYFS/Y1 Traditional Tales interactive performance.

Many Oldham schools subscribe to the Whole Class Instrumental Tuition (WCIT) programme. This year-long programme aims to ensure that every child is given an opportunity to play a musical instrument. According to research, learning in this type of environment gives children more confidence and higher self-esteem. Specialist teachers work alongside class teachers, ensuring that every child can experience enjoyment and success from the very earliest stages of musical learning. Our continuation programme, "Ongoing Opportunities (OOPS)", offers children and young people the chance to progress and provide a deeper understanding of the instrument, developing a lifelong love of music. OOPS builds upon the performance skills, creativity, aural awareness and social skills gained through WCIT and is often a stepping stone to our small-group tuition.

Ensuring that teachers have good subject knowledge in an area which is often outside their area of expertise is a focus of our high-quality CPD programme. We sign-post schools to resources and events which support both the

music and wider curriculum. The Primary Music Network is central to our CPD offer. As a lead organisation with the Greater Manchester Music Hub (GMMH), we are able to draw upon expertise from further afield and provide an enhanced service to our schools so support them in implementing an outstanding music curriculum.

## **Impact**

Children have access to a variety of musical experiences which allows them to discover areas of strength, as well as areas which they might like to improve upon. Children are able to enjoy music as listeners, creators and performers. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts.

The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a child may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history.

Children will be able to join extra-curricular ensembles and choirs within school, many of which are led by our team of peripatetic teachers.

The Oldham Music Centre is recognised nationally as a centre of excellence. As soon as a pupil is ready for one of the elementary or junior groups, they are invited to enrol. They then move through the groups according to personal progress and ability. Membership of the Oldham Music Centre provides children and young people with musical opportunities beyond that which schools are able to offer.