

Warren Wood Primary Academy and The Evergreen Centre Music Policy

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Document Change History

Date:	Version:	Description of Changes:
November 2023	1.2	Added to Trust template and updated

Purpose

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act “every child is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum”. This act introduced the National Curriculum, which states: “Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

Here at Warren Wood we are proud of the high-quality music education and opportunities we offer. All year groups follow the scheme ‘Musical Futures Online’ to ensure a consistent approach to teaching and to enable us to show progression through the years. We are lucky to have some of our lessons taught by specialist music and drama teachers within the trust. Staff are able to observe these lessons, giving them the confidence to then teach these lessons themselves.

Aims

Our curriculum aims to mirror those of the National curriculum, in that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions [formally referred to as musical elements]: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Our work towards developing children’s natural creativity begins right at the beginning, in Nursery, as we encourage children to sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing these alongside representing their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through art, music and dance.

Essentially, we want to give all children a love & understanding of music.

Curriculum

In Key Stage One children use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes, play tuned and un-tuned instruments musically, listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality music and experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music previously referenced.

In Key Stage Two, children are taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

They play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression and improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music.

They listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory and appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians to develop an understanding of the history of music.

They are taught to use and understand staff and other (e.g. 'tab') musical notations.

Wider Opportunities

We are proud to have close links with Dynamics (the Medway Music Education Hub), and Medway Music Association and try to take advantage of anything they have on offer. Pupils in Key Stage 1 have bi-termly music lessons from a specialist music teacher. Year 6 have weekly music technology lessons.

All children in Year 4 have the opportunity to learn an instrument which is taught by a visiting teacher from our local music hub. The children are taught in class groups and are currently studying ukulele. These children perform annually in the Brook theatre.

This year 30 of our Year 3's are performing in MMA's Carol Service at the Cathedral and Year 2 are performing in the Brook Theatre at MMA's Choral Festival. These are valuable opportunities to perform on a stage in front of a live audience.

As part of the 'Wider Opportunities' initiative, we have a specialist teacher in to teach clarinet to an ever-growing number of students who have expressed an interest in learning as well as a number of Pupil Premium children.

We are a school who believe in the importance of working with others in our local community.

Last year we were proud to be involved in an amazing community project involving a group of children from Year 4, 5 and 6. Not only did they perform in front of a huge audience but they had the experience of being taught by a professional dancer/choreographer, saw the workings of a big production and were inspired by the older performers they saw dance and sing. We are very excited to have been approached by Icon to take part in their next show which will be performed at Chatham Dockyard in February 2024.

We adapt the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with SEND: Warren Wood Primary Academy & Evergreen Centre prides itself in being inclusive and will endeavour to support every child regardless of their level of need. All pupils follow the National Curriculum at a level and a pace

that is appropriate to their abilities. At times and when it is felt appropriate, modifications to the curriculum may be implemented.

To successfully match pupil ability to the curriculum there are some actions we may take to achieve this:

1. Ensure that all pupils have access to the school curriculum and all school activities.
2. Help all pupils achieve to the best of their abilities, despite any difficulty or disability they may have.
3. Ensure that teaching staff are aware of and sensitive to the needs of all pupils, teaching pupils in a way that is more appropriate to their needs.
4. Assess arrangements are considered and monitored by the SEND Team.
5. Pupils to gain confidence and improve their self-esteem.
6. To work in partnership with parents/ carers, pupils, and relevant external agencies in order to provide for children's special educational needs and disabilities.
7. To identify at the earliest opportunity, all children that need special consideration to support their needs (whether these are educational, social, physical, or emotional)
8. To make suitable provision for children with SEND to fully develop their abilities, interests, and aptitudes and gain maximum access to the curriculum.
9. Ensure that all children with SEND are fully included in all activities of the school in order to promote the highest levels of achievement.
10. To promote self-worth and enthusiasm by encouraging independence at all age and ability levels.
11. To give every child the entitlement to a sense of achievement.
12. To regularly review the policy and practice in order to achieve best practice.
13. To ensure that we provide a language-rich environment and use resources such as Widgit to create communication boards for some pupils.

We understand that children learn and develop in different ways. Teachers and teaching assistants recognise this and use different teaching styles, and resources and plan different levels of work in the classroom to cater to the various ways children learn.