



The Mall School

Curriculum Guide

Music – Spring Term

Year 6

Teachers: Mrs Lisa Colclough
Lessons: 1 x 40min

Introduction:

“Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between the home, school and the wider world. The teaching of music develops pupils’ ability to listen and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgments about musical quality. It encourages active involvement in different forms of amateur music making, both individual and communal, developing a sense of group identity and togetherness. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment.”

The National Curriculum, QCA 1999

The music syllabus at The Mall School follows a scheme of work based around the National Curriculum with additional material inserted from time to time to extend particular aspects including cross-curricular links or specific musical topics (for example a project on African drumming in Year 7 which links with geography and the school’s involvement with the Landirani Trust in Malawi or a percussion project in Year 3 which focuses on learning to play tuned percussion, reading notation and ensemble skills). Most of the curriculum is taught in termly or half-termly projects culminating in some form of performance either to the rest of the class, to the school in an assembly or to parents in a concert.

Key Objectives:

- to foster and develop a love and understanding of music in many forms
- to provide a wide range of opportunities for pupils to discover and extend their own talents both as individuals and as members of a group through singing and instrumental work
- to provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop skills in reading notation, listening, performing, composing and appraising both themselves and others

These key objectives will be covered alongside others in the units of work in each term. The spring term objectives are as follows:

- Learn about West Africa and its musical instruments.
- Learn to play a range of cyclic drumming patterns including dunun, djembe, dununba, sangban, kenkeni patterns plus an aural starting and stopping signal.
- Develop the ability to play in an ensemble, to feel the pulse, to watch and take cues from each other and from a ‘master drummer’.
- Develop an understanding of structures within West African drumming music (including main groove, call and response, solo break, signal).
- Compose own ‘African pieces’ within a given framework inspired by traditional West African structures and work in small groups to develop and improve own compositions.
- Explore ways of notating work and develop rehearsal and ensemble skills.
- Work together to develop performance skills and to evaluate their own and others’ compositions.

Resources:

A range of African drums and percussion instruments (djembes, dunun drums, rattles, shakers etc)