



The Mall School

Curriculum Guide

Music – Spring Term

Year 8

Teachers: Mrs Lisa Colclough
Lessons: 1 x 35min for half a term (split with PE)

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 topic areas to be covered for the Spring and Summer Terms (two term project) are as follows:

- Learn and perform Ernst Toch’s ‘The Geographical Fugue’ – a piece of Spoken Music which tries, from different angles, to produce musical effects through speech
- Understand how to follow an SATB score and what SATB means (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)
- Learn to follow a score without getting lost and identify a range of notated rhythmic patterns
- Recognise a range of Italian musical terms in order to better perform the music
- Understand the importance of a group pulse, good diction and rhythm
- Understand the importance of listening to others in order to stay in time
- Understand the importance of developing good rehearsal skills (listening in silence, being ready and alert, following other parts when not performing themselves etc)
- Practise perfecting their own parts and understand how each part fits into the whole
- Learn about performance skills and if possible within the time frame, perform the piece to an audience.

Resources:

Copies of ‘The Geographical Fugue’ provided by the school.