Music Curriculum Statement

Our Vision for Music

At Laira Green Primary, children are encouraged to grow in their love and appreciation of music as they develop their knowledge and skills through a wide range of musical opportunities. We provide children with frequent opportunities to learn music with a high-quality, broad and balanced curriculum that encourages children to grow in confidence and self-esteem as they develop their musical interests and talents. Our music curriculum intends to inspire creativity and ensures that children actively take part in practical music-making and active participation in every lesson.

The aims of our music curriculum are to develop children who:

- Sing and use their voices individually and in a group
- Create and compose music on their own and with others
- Use technology appropriately when music-making, including when composing
- Have opportunities to learn and play musical instruments
- Listen to, review and evaluate the work of great composers and musicians from a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions
- Enjoy and appreciate a variety of musical styles
- Use and understand musical language and include musical features in their own work
- Have opportunities to take part in performances to a range of audiences

Curriculum Organisation and Progression

At Laira Green Primary, we use Get Set 4 Music as our scheme of work for music. This is a high-quality music curriculum that is carefully sequenced to build skills progressively, ensuring children develop creativity, confidence and a deeper understanding of music over time. Our Early Years units are in line with the Early Years Statutory Framework, supported by the Musical Development Matters document, ensuring that provision is developmentally appropriate. In KS1 and KS2, all units are aligned to the National Curriculum and supported by the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) where appropriate. Every unit is designed to meet the National Curriculum and MMC outcomes by exploring the three core strands of listening, composing, and performing (through playing and singing).

Children in our Reception and Preschool classes develop an enjoyment of music from the very beginning of their journey at Laira Green Primary. Through independent exploration and guided experiences, they develop their understanding of sound, rhythm, songs and musical instruments. Children have regular access to a range of instruments, allowing them to explore the different sounds they produce and experiment with changes in pitch, tempo, rhythm and dynamics. Music is woven throughout the curriculum and independent learning time, providing children with opportunities to express themselves through singing, movement, dance and creative exploration. Through these experiences, children develop their listening skills, musical awareness, confidence and ability to respond to music in different ways.

In Preschool, a selection of focus nursery rhymes is introduced each term, carefully linked to the themes and learning experiences of the year. Singing and rhymes help children develop their listening and communication skills, recognise patterns in music and language, explore rhythm and develop confidence in joining in with familiar songs.

In Reception, children continue to develop their musical knowledge and skills through a range of cross-curricular experiences. Music supports learning across the curriculum, helping children explore patterns, respond to rhythm, develop coordination and express ideas through movement and sound. Children are encouraged to listen to music from different cultures and traditions, explore a variety of musical styles and experiment with creating their own sounds and rhythms.

Through independent learning, daily routines and planned activities, children develop their confidence in singing, playing instruments, listening and responding to music. These experiences nurture their creativity, curiosity and enjoyment of music, laying the foundations for further musical learning.

Whole-Class Instrumental Teaching

In addition to these lessons, every child in Year 3 and Year 4 learns the glockenspiel through whole-class instrumental lessons. This gives children an excellent opportunity to experience learning to play an instrument in a group setting. It also sparks a depth of enjoyment in playing as an ensemble and further develops a sense of community within the class.

Singing and Performance

At Laira Green, we have weekly singing assemblies in both key stages where children learn how to explore their voices, pitch notes correctly and sing as a group together. This provides all children with a repertoire of songs of all genres and traditions that the whole school knows, which further builds on a sense of community, identity and belonging for the

children. Each child from Preschool to Year 6 takes part in performances during the school year. For example, children will perform to their families when celebrating different occasions, such as at our annual Christmas Concert. This gives them the opportunity to embed the music skills they have learnt as well as giving them a sense of purpose and a reason to take pride in their musicality.

Music Beyond the Classroom

We provide a number of music-focused extra-curricular activities, including a Performing Arts Club, which stages a musical each year. We are also involved in a number of city-wide musical experiences including taking a choir to perform at the Christmas Market each year and taking part in The Plymouth Big Sing each Summer.

Children also have the opportunity to extend their musical experiences through private instrumental tuition. We offer instrumental instruction from highly-skilled peripatetic teachers in classical guitar and keyboard.

The facilities at Laira Green Primary also provide learning opportunities through music technology. We have a well-equipped recording studio that has been used to record children's original compositions, allowing them to evaluate and analyse their creations. We have also been able to use this resource to create CDs that celebrate the music at LGP, which we have shared with our local community.