Music Policy

Approved by:	**Local Governing Board**	**Date:** September 2026
Signed by:	**Chair of the Local School Committee**	
Last reviewed on:	September 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

Philosophy
Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression and can also play an important part in helping children to feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to compose, perform and enjoy music, and to develop the skills to critically appraise and appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, genres and styles.

Aims
Our aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- Know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures:
- Know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- Know how music is composed and written down;
- Know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- Learn and develop skills to play a variety of instruments; and
- Develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

Music should also be seen as a vehicle for the building of children's self-esteem, confidence and self-discipline and the enhancement of life skills.

Learning Objectives

- To develop control and understanding of duration, pitch, tempo, timbre, texture, dynamics and structure.
- To communicate musical ideas to others.
- To improve instrumental and vocal techniques.
- To listen and appraise.
- To be able to sing and play in a variety of styles from memory.

Teaching and Learning Style
At Castlefort Academy we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Our teaching focuses on developing the skills needed to play and perform using different instruments, listening to and evaluating high quality recordings and live performances as well as improving children's ability to sing songs from memory and in tune as part of a group or as a soloist. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of the music and the social and historical events that influenced the style and genre. We teach them to listen, appreciate and evaluate different forms of music, and as the children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces. We teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them both standard and non-standard notation and how to use these to create, compose and improvise their own music.

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- Providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child; and
- Using teaching assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Curriculum
The scheme 'Sing Up' is used throughout the school with extra sessions planned and delivered by the specialist music lead teacher. Every child from year 1 to 6 gets the opportunity to learn different instruments, perform as part of a group and as a soloist. The children are exposed to, listen and play a range of music from different genres, cultures and styles. Children from Year 1 to 6 have a weekly music lesson taught by the specialist Music Leader. We are also currently complementing our music provision with specifically tailored resources made by Mrs Simcox- this focuses more on the theoretical side of music and is a visual and engaging resource to cement the knowledge required to progress to the more challenging elements of the music curriculum in upper key stage two.

Early Years
Early Years use the September 2021 revised Development matters/ Birth to 5 document to plan adult led lessons and independent activities for the children to access through play and continuous provision for music. They also now access the Sing Up resources under instruction of Mrs Simcox. The different aspects of the Music are encompassed within Expressive Arts and Design in the Foundation Stage Curriculum, however elements can also be found in other areas of learning (Physical development and Communication and Language).
Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. The children spend time listening to music from different genres and cultures, singing songs linked to areas of the curriculum, special days and festivals, as well as fostering their creativity by composing their own music to perform.. The children in Nursery and Reception also have to opportunity to join in with whole school singing and performances.

Cross-Curricular Links
Music in Castlefort Academy, as well as making its own distinctive contribution to the school curriculum, also helps to develop skills in other areas, especially in the development of Literacy (language skills, rhythm, rhyme, research, creative writing, communicating ideas), Maths (patterns, sequences and processes), dance, art, ICT (composing, notation, research, use of iPads and recording for assessment), and PSHE (reflecting, listening, creating, performing).

Assessment and Recording
Teacher assessment is incorporated into termly and weekly planning. We assess children's knowledge and understanding by questioning, listening and observation of performance in class as an on-going process. Evidence may be in big books, on display and as audio/visual recordings of performances and group work.

Records of progress in Music:

- Each class from Year 1-6 has a Music folder and audio/video files are kept of children's work as evidence.
- At the start of each term, children complete an informal prior learning quiz which is used to gain an understanding of what the children already know.
- Throughout each topic, the children complete short listening quizzes to show their knowledge and understanding of what has been taught in Music.
- Examples of children's work, parent workshops, children's evaluations/pupil voice and photographs are celebrated in the class book.
- Sway is used as a way of recording evidence.

Performances and Extra-Curricular Activities
In the Autumn Term, children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be given the chance to attend choir rehearsals which will culminate in a concert. We also prepare special songs for different events in the year such as Harvest, Black History Month and Easter and often visit local care homes or community centres to perform at Christmastime for residents which is always a highlight for the children to share their joy of performing.
Throughout the year, children will be given the opportunity to showcase their instrumental and ensemble pieces in dedicated performances in front of parents and the school. Singing will be showcased through class assemblies, special assemblies and in singing festivals organised by the federation and forest arts.

Each Christmas, EYFS and Key Stage 1 will perform a nativity production (supported by the KS2 children) where the children will have an opportunity to showcase acting, singing and dancing skills to an audience of parents, children and staff.

Throughout the year, the school choir will be given the opportunity to take part in various performances such as performing at care homes and community centres and singing festivals organised by the Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust and Forest Arts. There has also been links made between the school and the local special school to share Makaton performances.

In the summer term, the performing arts group will take part in a summer showcase that will have a different theme each year (Disney, musicals, pop, and rock). Each class will be given different songs and dialogue that will then be combined together to form a large-scale performance. The class will have to produce costumes, learn lines and work on performance technique to build up to performing in front of parents and staff of Castlefort Academy.

We take part in a wide variety of creative events within the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust, including the choir festival and Lighthouse Got Talent events. This year, we will also embark on improving the Brownhills/Walsall Wood community links by partnering with Brownhills Ormiston Academy staff to strengthen provision of music within our community.

Inclusion

It is expected that all children will be given the opportunity to learn in a creative and encouraging learning environment which encompasses a range of learning and teaching styles. All children are entitled to this as part of our commitment to equality. It is hoped that this approach will motivate and support children's learning at all levels including the Gifted and Talented, EAL and children identified with a Special Educational Need (SEN).

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Local Governing Board, and will be reviewed annually.