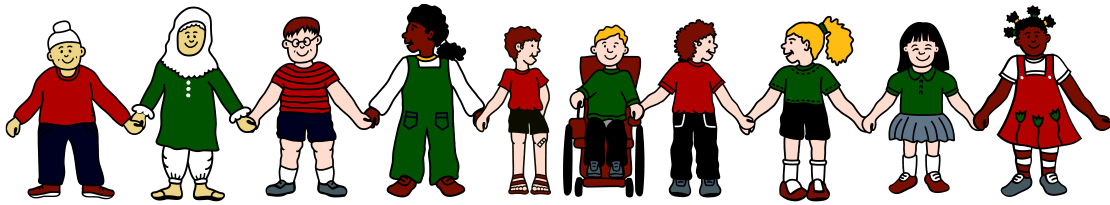


THE GILES NURSERY AND INFANTS' SCHOOL



Music Report for Governors

2023-2024

Music Report for Governors
2023-2024
Curriculum Leader: Tania Dalton
Governor: Lisa Hill

Statement of intent

The aim of our music curriculum is to ensure that pupils develop the competence to excel in a broad range of musical activities:

- by mastering a basic music vocabulary
- by developing their musical knowledge and skills in the key areas of pulse / beat, rhythm, pitch and dynamics
- be able to play a range of percussion instruments to accompany music and songs
- appreciate an increasing range of musical styles and use their musical vocabulary to talk about music they have listened to
- to participate in whole class performances such as assemblies and concerts

Leading Music

The role of the curriculum lead is to continually monitor the quality of teaching and the curriculum that is being taught across the school, to ensure a creative and spiralled curriculum that is accessible to all pupils and supports those pupils that are disadvantaged or have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This is achieved through our school monitoring cycle which includes lesson observations, work scrutiny, display monitoring and photographic evidence. Photographic evidence is displayed in the music photographic evidence file. All other evidence is kept in the music curriculum file, which is monitored by the head teacher each academic year. Pupils are also involved in the monitoring of music through the collection of pupil voice from each year group. Further monitoring takes place through curriculum leader reports, which are shared with curriculum link governors.

Curriculum Intent

Teachers plan a creative, holistic, spiralled curriculum to ensure that music learning happens in a sequential and progressive manner. This enables pupils to build upon previously learned knowledge and skills and embed what they have learnt. This year the curriculum objectives have been delivered through the following topics and areas of learning:

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn	<p>Nursery Rhymes / Celebrations names of musical instruments and exploring the sounds they make nursery rhyme songs eg 1,2,3 Little Ladybirds, 5 Currant Buns, Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle, Incy Wincy Spider Autumn songs and rhymes Teddy bear and birthday songs CIL</p>	<p>Three Little Pigs / Wolves and Environments Songs for daily routine Responding to Bhangra music musician of the month seasonal and class concert songs for performance: Cheerio, off we go Straw, Sticks & Bricks I'm the Big Bad Wolf I made a Christmas present We wish you a Merry Christmas CIL Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Me! Second half term: My Stories.</p>	<p>Ourselves and Our Senses / The Natural World / Toys Use percussion instruments to re- tell the story of The First Musician Musician of the month assemblies performance poetry seasonal and class concert songs for performance: Little Donkey, Knock, Knock, Knock at the Door, Away in a Manger, We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Introducing beat - how can we make friends when we sing together? Second half term: Adding rhythm and pitch - How does music tell stories about the past?</p>	<p>Healthy Me / An Island Home Seasonal and class concert songs for performance Musician of the month assemblies Charanga Music Scheme Unit 1: How does music help us to make friends? Nativity Concert – Baa, Baa Boogie! (Out of the Ark)</p>
Spring	<p>Jungle Animals / Growing The Animal Boogie Rhythm of names and animal names Music and instruments from Africa 5 Hot Cross Buns In and Out the Dusty Bluebells Vivaldi Four Seasons CIL</p>	<p>The Gingerbread Man / Safe Journeys Musician of the Month CIL Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Everyone! Second half term: Our World</p>	<p>Winter / Traditional and Fairy Tales / Local area Goldilocks song Spring poetry musician of the month assemblies seasonal songs Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Introducing tempo and dynamics - how does music make the world a better place? Second half term: Round and Round</p>	<p>A Land Far, Far Away Seasonal and class concert songs for performance Musician of the month assemblies Charanga Music Scheme Unit 4 - Inventing a musical story - how does music teach us about our neighbourhood?</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Summer</p>	<p>Sand and Water Seaside songs and shanties A sailor went to sea, sea, sea One little, two little pirates Music 'Under the Sea' CIL</p>	<p>The Little Red Hen / Growing Musician of the Month seasonal and class concert songs for performance 5 eggs and 5 eggs Cluck, cluck red hen 5 bread rolls in a baker's shop Little Red Hen rap CIL Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Big Bear Funk Second half term: Reflect, Rewind & Replay.</p>	<p>Plants / Seaside / Gruffalo Learning to orally retell the story of The Gruffalo using signing Musician of the month assemblies Seasonal songs Charanga Music Scheme First half term: Your Imagination Second half term: Reflect, Rewind & Replay</p>	<p>Nature Detectives Seasonal and class concert songs for performance Musician of the month assemblies Charanga Music Scheme Unit 3 (original scheme) I Wanna Play in a Band</p>
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Curriculum Implementation

Is music taught in a rich and varied way?

The music curriculum is taught in a rich and varied way, with strong cross-curricular links to other subjects. This helps bring learning to life and make it meaningful within a context. Carole Hintridge, our HIP, reported, following her visit in July 2023:

“The curriculum intent for music is precise. Whilst the subject discipline is distinct, music is woven into all aspects of the school’s life and contributes significantly to pupils’ personal development.”

Whilst the Charanga scheme of work provides a planning and progression spine for music in school, teachers work to ensure that music features in many other areas of school life. All the year groups learn and perform songs and concerts for their families. Performance is a key part of musical learning as it enables pupils to demonstrate what they have learnt, work together to produce an end-product and develop valuable personal skills, confidence and self-esteem. In weekly assemblies, Key stage 1 learn musical rounds, such as the school song ‘Land of the Silver Birch’, and celebratory songs including ‘Living and Learning’ and ‘Well Done’. In Reception, the pupils learn about different musicians throughout the year through the musician of the month focus. This is an opportunity to experience different genres of music. Within the EYFS, music features within the ‘Expressive Arts and Design’ area of learning. Opportunities to explore music and environmental sounds through CIL also enable the pupils to begin to develop the characteristics of effective learning. In year 1, the pupils learn the Goldilocks song as part of the Fairy Tales topic in the spring term, and The Gruffalo song as part of the Gruffalo topic in the summer term. They use Makaton and Pie Corbett signing with the songs to help embed them in memory. Developing memory is another key musical skill that benefits all areas of academic learning across the curriculum. They also use percussion instruments to make their own musical retelling of the story ‘The First Musician’ in RE. Key stage 1 classes also have dance lessons as part of the PE curriculum. Whole school arts events such as One World Week are an opportunity for all pupils to experience live music or dance from a variety of cultures.

The children perform for their families in concerts throughout the year. These are an opportunity for parents to appreciate their children’s learning in music, as well as other areas of the curriculum. We also seek opportunities for the children to contribute to the local community by performing at events such as Stevenage Day and the local music festival, Todd in the Hole.

What has been done to improve standards?

Charanga is embedded as our core scheme, with each year group adding further music learning opportunities through our creative curriculum. The curriculum leader maintains close contact with local networks and services such as the Hertfordshire Music Service.

In July of 2023, the local Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP) conducted a deep-dive into the music provision of our school. The report was extremely complementary of the curriculum we provide:

“The music curriculum at Giles Nursery and Infants’ School offers pupils a rich and comprehensive musical experience. School leaders’ commitment to fostering a love for the arts is evident throughout the curriculum. Interactive activities, such as singing, playing instruments and movement, are used to develop children’s understanding of rhythm, melody and musical concepts. The curriculum encompasses diverse musical genres, cultural traditions, and opportunities for creative expression. The school’s nurturing environment encourages all pupils to explore their musical potential. Curriculum maps and newsletters show how music is integrated in other subjects to make learning meaningful.”

Action points were identified for this year, focused on singing. They include development of a singing strategy and development of an evidence framework for progression in singing. It was recommended that it should focus on the endpoint expectations of KS1. The curriculum leader has drafted a singing strategy which will be shared with teachers at a staff meeting in the summer term. With regards to an assessment framework for music, the curriculum leader participated in two training sessions on assessment in primary foundation subjects. The first was a full day course with HfL on 5th February 2024. The second was a twilight in school with one of the HfL advisors. These sessions were very helpful in showing how to develop an assessment framework based on the key concepts and strands of a subject. In the summer term, the curriculum leader will begin work on the music assessment framework.

Following the completion of the self-evaluation framework in the summer term of 2023, the curriculum leader identified that it would be good to find a way to begin to offer extra-curricular music lessons for KS1 children. The Giles Junior School run Rock Steady music sessions. The curriculum leader and Assistant Head visited the Junior School to observe the sessions and concluded that it would be worthwhile offering it as an option to our families too. Although these lessons are paid for by parents, there is the option to make them accessible to PPG students by using PPG funding. For each place paid for by PPG funding, Rock Steady will make another place available. Rock Steady is being launched in the Spring Term of 2024, with a view to band lessons beginning in the Summer Term.

This year, an after-school choir club has run for Year 1 and Year 2 children. It is free to attend. This has been developed following the collection of pupil voice in the summer of 2023, in which Year 2 pupils expressed the wish that they could have had such a club. The club is well attended each week. The children work on a focus song each term, whilst also learning some other songs, rhymes or musical games.

We plan to take children to perform at the Todd in the Hole festival in the summer term. This will be a new venture for us. It will be a superb opportunity for the children to experience a public performance, as well as enjoying live music. We are also exploring the possibility of performing at Stevenage Day.

Overview of this year so far: progress towards the implementation of the music curriculum from summer 2023 to spring 2024

- Continue to collect pupil voice and recordings of musical learning.
 - Pupil voice was collected in the summer term of 2023. It is a good time to collect pupil voice as a way to inform action planning for the next academic year. As noted below, it informed the introduction of a choir club for Key Stage 1 in the autumn term of 2023.
- Develop and embed an effective assessment tool.
 - the curriculum leader participated in two training sessions on assessment in primary foundation subjects. The first was a full day course with HfL on 5th February 2024. The second was a twilight in school with one of the HfL advisors.
 - In the summer term, the curriculum leader will begin work on the music assessment framework.
- Continue to ensure that children are exposed to a diverse range of genres and musicians through a monthly focus.
 - Reception has continued to maintain a musician of the month focus throughout the year. Parent voice collected in the summer term of 2023 indicated the tremendous value this focus has, as noted by our HIP: "One parent wrote, 'Talking about these

- musicians and listening to their songs or pieces have provided some lovely quality family time over the past year.”
- Undertake a learning walk.
 - The HIP visit in July 2023 was a valuable opportunity to see the provision for music across the school.
 - Conduct an inventory of the music trolleys.
 - This takes place in the summer term.
 - Consider how instruments are stored to avoid breakages.
 - The music trolley is covered when not in use.
 - Have broken instruments repaired or replaced.
 - Curriculum lead will source quotes for repair of wooden xylophones in the summer term.
 - Continue to implement the after-school music club.
 - This year, following pupil voice collected from Year 2 pupils in the summer term of 2023, the music club has been replaced with a choir club. It has been well attended in autumn and spring, with parents showing appreciation for their children’s progress and performance.
 - Undertake the self-evaluation and review our curriculum provision in line with the National Plan for Music which now includes a focus on 0-5 music.
 - The SEF was completed in the summer term of 2023 and has been used to inform planning for 2023/2024. An example is the action taken to introduce extra-curricular musical learning opportunities through the choir club and the Rock Steady band lessons.

In order to implement our curriculum successfully, progress towards targets 2022-2023 was as follows:

Priority: To raise attainment across the school for the lowest 20% of children by further enhancing our curriculum to address any gaps.

- After-school music club for Year 1 ran successfully throughout the year. Numbers of pupils signing up increased for the spring term 1. A parent commented after the first autumn unit, that her son had been able to sing the song that he had learnt at home, with the actions, in a second language (French), and that she had recorded it to share with family members. Some children returned for all units of the after-school music club.
- The opportunity to perform was a significant gap to close following the impact of two years of COVID restrictions. Reception and Year 2 pupils put on autumn assemblies for parents. Year 1 and Year 2 put on a musical nativity performance for parents. Year 1 sang Christmas songs at Church and parents were able to come and watch too. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 also put on summer concerts to showcase their learning. These were very well attended by their families and lots of positive feedback was given by parents to the headteacher. Pupils showed that they were able to overcome any nerves to speak clearly, sing well and present themselves well to an audience.
- Pupils had performance opportunities built into music lessons within the safe and supportive environment of their own class, performing for and with their peers.
- Music lessons were held in accordance with the curriculum journey. In addition to timetabled music lessons, the children also learnt a wide range of songs in Reception and Key Stage 1 for Christmas and autumn and summer concerts. Children took home the song words to practise at home. In Nursery the children learnt nursery rhymes and the children took those home to share with their parents. In weekly whole school assemblies, the children learnt musical rounds, such as the school song ‘Land of the Silver Birch’ and celebratory songs including ‘Living and Learning’ and ‘Well Done’.

- In Reception and KS1 Musician of the Month allowed children to experience a diverse range of genres of music from across the eras. Reception parents gave some powerful parent voice testimony of the impact of the Musician of the Month series.
- Live music was experienced in school with the musical theatre production The Jungle Book. In One World Week the children were able to take part in workshops for Indian Dance and West African Drumming.
- A music trolley inventory was undertaken in the 2022 summer term. As a result, a full class set of claves is now available, in addition to a wide range of other percussion instruments. Year 1 classes were each given a class box of instruments.

Priority: To further secure outstanding wellbeing by ensuring pastoral systems continue to support exemplary behaviours for learning including those with pupils with complex SEMH and SEND.

- In the spring term, all subject leaders reviewed their subjects to consider barriers to learning and how to address them. A provision map for barriers to engagement, progress and achievement in music was developed on 1 February 2023. This is held in a central folder on the staff server for all teachers to access as needed. The detailed provision map considers barriers associated with hearing impairment, visual impairment, dyspraxia, memory and processing, ASD, ADHD, cognition and SEMH.
- Teachers are very aware of the needs of their pupils and are adapting to ensure pupils can participate. An example is the use of ear defenders for noise sensitivity or, in the case of Year 2, a class set of headphones is being purchased for when they study music tech.
- Year 2 data for 2022-2023 showed the majority of pupils achieved expected standard in music by the end of the Key Stage.

Priority: To further embed equalities, representation and inclusivity throughout the school so that every pupil and staff member recognises their value within the community.

- The purchase of a teaching resource called 'Listen and Celebrate' supported the development of Musician of the Month assemblies for Key Stage 1, ensuring pupils had the opportunity to experience a diverse range of musicians.
- Reception Musician of the Month celebrated a broad range of musicians.
- In October (Black History Month), the foci for Musician of the Month were Louis Armstrong (Reception) and Kokoroko (Key Stage 1). However, celebration of black musicians has not been limited to this month.
- The coronation of King Charles III gave the school a fantastic opportunity to embrace rap music in the summer term. Our very own site manager, a professional rapper and proud Stevenage citizen, wrote a rap specifically for the occasion and uniquely for our school. The pupils were deeply engaged by hearing Vincenzo's (aka Mr Bramble to our pupils) story of how he became a rapper, starting by learning poetry that his Dad gave him.
- A display of instruments in the hall includes a number of instruments from around the world. Children are able to engage with this interactive display, and a number of children with SEND do so when using the hall.
- One World Week in the Summer term provided a fantastic opportunity to ensure our pupils could participate in Indian Dance and West African Drumming.
- Nursery celebrated West African Drumming in the Spring Term.
- An informative display of Musicians of the Month was created in the hall.
- A music display at Open Evening in the Summer Term included diverse instruments from around the world which current and prospective families could interact with. It was a very popular, if noisy, table!

Priority: Keep abreast of national changes in education.

- At the beginning of the spring term 2023, we benefited from the visit of a primary music specialist from the HMS, to discuss our curriculum intent, implementation and impact. This discussion informed a self-evaluation of our provision.
- A twilight session was held for all teachers to participate in a careful review of the provision in each subject to ensure coherence through the intent, implementation, impact, and progression. The music curriculum lead participated in this training opportunity.
- A second twilight allowed subject leads to check across all year groups that the curriculum journey was accurate and clear.
- The music lead attended the subject leader cluster meeting on 25.01.2023. This was a really helpful meeting where music leaders could discuss typical music deep dive questions and experiences and share good practice.
- The music lead attended the Tea and Symphony training on 07 June 2023 focusing on the role of the music lead. These training opportunities are provided by the Herts Music Service. The session was very informative, providing guidance that helped to inform the self-evaluation and the new action plan for 2023-24.

Priority: To further secure outstanding leadership and management through supporting those for governance to securely and consistently understand their role and carry it out effectively.

- The music policy was reviewed, updated and approved in December 2022. It is now available to view on the school website.
- A report for the music governor was prepared in March 2023 and shared.
- The music lead met with the music governor ahead of the Summer Visit by our HIP to discuss the self-evaluation of music provision.
- The action plan was reviewed in the spring term of 2023, and again at the end of July 2023, and uploaded to the website.

Priority: Music teaching in school is of a high standard and contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum.

- Our school hosted the Tea and Symphony CPD on music for 0-5 and Key Stage 1 on 8 March 2023. This was attended by teachers and teaching students from our own school as well as teachers from other schools in Hertfordshire.
- The invitations to Tea and Symphony CPD were circulated to staff throughout the year.
- The curriculum journey was made available on the school website, and was reviewed and agreed with all year group teachers on 26.01.2023 (It has also been published on the website for 2023-2024.)
- Pupil voice and parent voice were collected in the Summer Term.
- Assessment data was recorded by teachers.
- Lesson observations took place.

Curriculum impact

Looking back across the whole of the academic year 2022/2023, the following impacts were observed:

Autumn 2022:

- The children performed their concerts and nativity plays in the autumn term well. For many of them, it was their first performance for an audience since COVID.
- The Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed performing in an external venue at the Oval Church at Christmas.
- Parents were very appreciative of the children's performances.

- Parents expressed their appreciation of the performance of the after-school club children. One parent explained that she had recorded her son performing the song learnt in the first term in order to share it with relatives in the Philippines. The after-school club has also attracted new pupils each term. It was a pilot project for this year, but the participation would suggest that it should run again next year. Another parent told the music lead how much his daughter had enjoyed the club. Going forward into the next academic year, it would be good to explore how to continue a club for the new Year 2 children.
- Pupil voice collected from Year 2 also showed that pupils would like more music opportunities, expressing an interest in learning an instrument or having a singing club. Unfortunately, as an infants' school we do not qualify for the First Access programme. It will be an action for the autumn term to explore other opportunities for pupils to learn an instrument.

Spring 2023:

- KS1 children showed progression in their music skills, performing the school song Land of the Silver Birch as a round in two parts. They were able to keep time and through the year they have continued to develop their ability to hear the other part.
- In the spring term a Musician of the Month assembly for KS1 focussed on Refloresta, a Brazilian pop song by Gilberto Gil. The pupils were able to build a short response to it, showing they could use dynamics, follow a conductor, and layer different sounds to create texture as each class took a different part and all combined to create a single piece of music using body percussion. A member of staff fed back to the music lead that she was going to see Gilberto Gil perform in London as part of a festival her daughter was taking part in, and that she knew who he was because she had been in the assembly.

Summer 2023:

- Class concerts showed that the children could sing tunefully.
- The children demonstrated that they could perform for an audience successfully, using clear voices to speak, stand well in front of the audience, maintain a sense of calm and remember the song words and actions. They successfully overcame their nerves, and walked into the performance space beautifully. Many children are more confident performers by the end of Year 2.
- Monitoring visits and pupil voice showed that children were using key vocabulary to talk about music they hear. Year 2 pupils commented:
 - I enjoy answering questions about a piece of music; it helps me to understand it better.
 - I like the warm-ups in Charanga. They help me to keep the beat.
 - I like it when we use the xylophones and half of us listen to the others play.
 - I liked the ET theme music. I liked all the different instruments and the big ending with the cymbals.
- The following comments from Year 1 pupils demonstrate how the pupils appreciated different aspects of the music curriculum:
 - I love our lessons when using the instruments. I enjoy it when we play and listen to the high and low pitch.
 - I liked Mr Bramble's rap. It made me want to dance.
 - I loved the King's Rap. It is cool.
 - I enjoy singing in our assembly. It makes me feel happy.
 - Music makes me feel calm and relaxed and happy.
 - I love the music when it gets louder and louder. It makes me feel like a rock star.
- Parent voice from Reception showed that children enjoyed telling their families what they had learnt about different artists. One parent commented, 'she sings 'We Will Rock You' all the time!' Parents noticed that their children requested songs to be played on Alexa. Another parent

commented on how their son showed empathy with a homeless person because he had learnt about the song 'Streets of London' by Ralph McTell.

- Teacher assessment for the end of the year showed the majority of Year 2 pupils were finishing Key Stage 1 at expected level for music.

Impact in 2023-2024 so far:

Autumn 2023:

- The Year 2 children put on a splendid Christmas nativity performance for their families. They performed it twice, to a sell-out audience both times, with many changes of scene, several songs, and many words to be spoken. They performed confidently and with obvious enjoyment and pride. The performance included all pupils, with SEN needs taken into account and planned and provided for. Parents were suitably impressed.
- The Year 1 children performed carols at All Saints Church on Vardon Road. The church was filled to capacity with the families. The children sang clearly, facing their audience, using actions, and standing up and sitting down at appropriate times.
- Reception classes performed a concert for their families in the school hall, reviewing their learning over the autumn term. They took great pride in showing their work and performing songs together.
- The Key Stage 1 choir performed for the whole school community at the Christmas fair organised by the PTA. Despite technical difficulties with the music, the children sang clearly, maintained the melody throughout the song, kept their eyes on the conductor, stood well and kept time.

Spring 2024:

- The launch of Rock Steady band lessons took place in March, with a lively and engaging assembly. At the time of writing, 32 pupils have signed up and the school will be funding 6 PPG places, with the match-funding service provide by Rock Steady. Band lessons will begin in the summer term. The Rock Steady representative who conducted the assembly commented to the curriculum lead that he was impressed with the musicality of the Key Stage 1 pupils.

Moving forward: Actions for the remainder of 2023/2024 and moving into 2024/2025

- Continue to collect pupil voice and recordings of musical learning.
- In the summer term, lead a staff meeting to look at progression in Charanga, a singing strategy and an assessment tool.
- Conduct lesson observations.
- Undertake a learning walk.
- Conduct an inventory of the music trolleys.
- Source quotes to have broken xylophones repaired or replaced.
- Continue to implement the after-school choir club.
- Undertake the self-evaluation.

Music Key Vocabulary 2022-2023

	Nursery	Reception	Key Stage 1
Key Vocabulary	song, sound, fast/slow, quietly/quiet, loudly/loud, tambourine, drum, triangle, shaker, cymbal, bells, listen, play, sing, voice, instruments, clap	tap, beat, silence, xylophone, chime bars, castanets, guitar, piano, musician, conductor, perform	chorus, verse, beat/ pulse , rhythm /long & short sounds, tempo , dynamics , melody, high/low/ pitch , harmony , mood/ timbre , sound/ texture , body percussion, untuned percussion, guiro, claves, maracas, glockenspiel, audience, improvise, compose
Exposed vocabulary	Classical, Pop	Classical, Bhangra, Folk, Jazz, Pop, Rock'n'Roll, Jazz, Reggae, Indie, Funk, violin, trumpet, trombone	